

New beginnings: On the end of START as opportunity

The **end** of START **should prompt** discussions on wider and equal terms

On February 5, 2026, the 'New' Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) expired. A symbol of an older **era** in global **geopolitics**, where the U.S. and the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were engaged in an **escalating spiral** of **one-upmanship** such as 'testing' **mammoth** nuclear weapons and space races, START represented a **pivotal** shift in how they **approached** nuclear competition — from unlimited **accumulation** towards **negotiated** reduction. It emerged from **decades** of arms control efforts and **altered** the **trajectory** of the Cold War's final years. The nuclear arms race that **dominated the Cold War** saw both superpowers **accumulate** massive **arsenals**. By the 1980s, they each **possessed** over 10,000 strategic nuclear **warheads** — the U.S. with a **lopsided** advantage. Earlier arms control measures such as the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks, in the 1970s, attempted to **limit** the growth of these arsenals, but were focused on **capping** numbers rather than reducing them.

START I negotiations began in 1982 and proved complex. The treaty was not signed until July 1991, just months before the Soviet Union's **collapse**. It represented the first agreement between the superpowers to actually reduce strategic nuclear arsenals rather than **merely** limit their growth. The treaty required each side to cut strategic warheads to 6,000 and reduce delivery systems **proportionally**. This was a significant symbolic and practical achievement — each country would have roughly 30% fewer warheads than **existing agreements** permitted. Later agreements built on START's framework and reduced **deployable** warheads to 1,700-2,200 a side, and the New START Treaty (2010) limited each side to 1,550 deployed strategic warheads. Each represented further progress down from Cold War peaks. The New **START**, with its 15-year lifespan, **ought to have** been replaced with more **ambitious outcomes**. But **given** that global geopolitics seems to be **receding** into **imperialist** structures — **mercantilist** tariff systems and a **craving** for territories — it is unsurprising that arms-race **doctrines** too will be **resuscitated**. U.S. President Donald Trump has **stated** that any future arms control must include China, given its growing nuclear **stockpile**, signalling that the U.S. will not be bound by limits if other major **powers** (such as China) **are** free to **build up** theirs. The **end** of START **may** have serious consequences for global agreements, such as the **Non-Proliferation Treaty** and the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**. They are both **noble** in theory but the first is discriminatory in the way it **seeks** to **rid** the world **of** nuclear weapons. The **end** of START **is** an opportunity to restart discussion on more equal terms. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Era** (noun) – epoch, period, age, generation, stage युग
2. **Geopolitics** (noun) – the study of how geography, power, and politics influence relations between nations भू-राजनीति
3. **Escalate** (verb) – intensify, heighten, aggravate, amplify, mount बढ़ाना
4. **Spiral** (noun) – a progressive rise or fall of prices, wages, etc., each responding to an upward or downward stimulus provided by a previous one.
5. **One-upmanship** (noun) – competitiveness, rivalry, brinkmanship, jockeying, dominance बाजी मारना
6. **Mammoth** (adjective) – colossal, gargantuan, behemoth, gigantic, immense विशालकाय
7. **Pivotal** (adjective) – crucial, central, vital, critical, decisive महत्वपूर्ण
8. **Approach** (verb) – address, handle, tackle, confront, manage दृष्टिकोण अपनाना
9. **Accumulation** (noun) – amassing, collection, build-up, accrual, hoarding संचय
10. **Negotiate** (verb) – bargain, arbitrate, mediate, settle, parley समझौता करना
11. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years. दशक
12. **Alter** (verb) – change, modify, transform, amend, vary बदलना
13. **Trajectory** (noun) – path, course, route, track, direction प्रक्षेपवक्र
14. **Dominate** (verb) – control, command, govern, rule, overshadow हावी होना
15. **The Cold War** (noun) – the period of political hostility between the ussr and the us from 1945 to 1991 शीत युद्ध
16. **Accumulate** (verb) – gather, collect, amass, stockpile, garner जमा करना
17. **Arsenal** (noun) – armoury, magazine, repository, storehouse, stock शस्त्रागार
18. **Possess** (verb) – own, hold, keep, retain, occupy पास होना
19. **Warhead** (noun) – the explosive head of a missile or rocket युद्धक विमान
20. **Lopsided** (adjective) – asymmetrical, uneven, unbalanced, crooked, tilted एकतरफा
21. **Limit** (verb) – restrict, curb, check, restrain, cap सीमित करना
22. **Cap** (verb) – limit, restrict, ceiling, curb, restrain अधिकतम सीमा निर्धारित करना
23. **Collapse** (noun) – breakdown, fall, ruin, disintegration, failure पतन
24. **Merely** (adverb) – only, purely, simply, solely, just केवल

25. **Proportionally** (adverb) – relatively, comparatively, correspondingly, equally, uniformly आनुपातिक रूप से
26. **Existing** (adjective) – current, present, extant, prevailing, contemporary वर्तमान
27. **Agreement** (noun) – treaty, pact, accord, concordat, covenant समझौता
28. **Deployable** (adjective) – usable, operational, ready, available, employable तैनात करने योग्य
29. **Ought to** (modal verb) – should, must, have to, be obliged to, be required to चाहिए
30. **Ambitious** (adjective) – aspiring, enterprising, bold, purposeful, determined महत्वाकांक्षी
31. **Outcome** (noun) – result, consequence, effect, aftermath, upshot परिणाम
32. **Given** (preposition) – considering, granting, acknowledging, assuming, providing देखते हुए
33. **Recede** (verb) – retreat, withdraw, ebb, subside, wane पीछे हटना
34. **Imperialist** (adjective) – colonial, expansionist, domineering, hegemonic, dictatorial साम्राज्यवादी
35. **Mercantilist** (adjective) – related to the economic theory of maximizing exports and trade वाणिज्यवादी
36. **Craving** (noun) – yearning, longing, appetite, hunger, desire लालसा
37. **Doctrine** (noun) – principle, belief, creed, tenet, dogma सिद्धांत
38. **Resuscitate** (verb) – revive, restore, revitalize, resurrect, renew पुनर्जीवित करना
39. **State** (verb) – declare, announce, assert, affirm, proclaim कहना
40. **Stockpile** (noun) – store, reserve, cache, supply, hoard भंडार
41. **Build up** (phrasal verb) – a gradual accumulation or increase of something typically in a negative sense धीरे-धीरे बढ़ाना
42. **Non-Proliferation Treaty** (noun) – an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons परमाणु अप्रसार संधि
43. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – exhaustive, thorough, inclusive, extensive, all-embracing व्यापक
44. **Noble** (adjective) – virtuous, righteous, honourable, idealistic, worthy महान
45. **Seek** (verb) – aim, strive, endeavour, attempt, aspire तलाश करना
46. **Rid of** (phrasal verb) – to make someone or something free of something unwanted छुटकारा पाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)** expired on **February 5, 2026**.
2. START symbolized a shift from **Cold War nuclear rivalry** to **negotiated arms reduction** between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
3. During the Cold War, both superpowers accumulated **massive nuclear arsenals**, exceeding 10,000 warheads each by the 1980s.
4. The U.S. held a **numerical advantage** in strategic nuclear weapons during that period.
5. Earlier agreements like the **Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT)** in the 1970s only aimed to **cap the growth**, not reduce the number of weapons.
6. START I negotiations began in **1982** and were highly complex.
7. START I was signed in **July 1991**, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union.
8. It was the first treaty that required **actual reduction** of strategic nuclear arsenals rather than mere limitation.
9. The treaty mandated reducing warheads to **6,000 per side**, cutting arsenals by roughly **30%** compared to previous limits.
10. Later agreements further reduced deployed warheads to **1,700–2,200**, showing progressive disarmament.
11. The **New START Treaty (2010)** capped deployed strategic warheads at **1,550 per side**.
12. Despite its 15-year duration, New START was not replaced by a more ambitious agreement.
13. Current global geopolitics reflects a return to **imperialist tendencies, mercantilist trade policies, and territorial ambitions**, increasing the likelihood of renewed arms races.
14. The U.S. has argued that future arms control must include **China**, citing its expanding nuclear stockpile.
15. The expiration of START could weaken global non-proliferation frameworks like the **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** and the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**, but it also presents an opportunity to renegotiate arms control on **more equal and inclusive terms**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why was START I considered fundamentally different from earlier Cold War arms agreements?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. It imposed multilateral ceilings involving emerging nuclear-capable states
 - B. It legally obligated verified numerical reductions in strategic arsenals
 - C. It replaced deterrence doctrine with cooperative nuclear disarmament
 - D. It eliminated nuclear delivery platforms alongside warhead dismantlement
2. **What does the author identify as the principal limitation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?**
 - A. Its inability to prevent horizontal proliferation among regional powers
 - B. Its weak enforcement mechanisms against clandestine nuclear programs
 - C. Its structurally discriminatory division between nuclear and non-nuclear states
 - D. Its failure to adapt technologically to post-Cold War security challenges
3. **What implicit assumption underlies the U.S. position that future arms control must include China?**
 - A. Strategic stability depends primarily on bilateral parity rather than multipolar balance
 - B. Nuclear restraint is sustainable only when all rising powers accept uniform constraints
 - C. Existing treaties lose legitimacy once emerging powers expand arsenals unchecked
 - D. Arms limitation is ineffective without simultaneous global economic realignments
4. **Which interpretation best captures the author's view of START's expiration?**
 - A. It marks the irreversible collapse of institutional arms control regimes
 - B. It demonstrates the obsolescence of Cold War-era diplomatic frameworks
 - C. It accelerates unchecked militarization driven by territorial competition
 - D. It provides an opening to renegotiate disarmament on equitable foundations
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. End of START enabling renewed arms dialogue
 - B. Cold War rivalry causing nuclear stockpiles
 - C. China's rise undermining global arms treaties
 - D. Failure of treaties controlling nuclear weapons
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Prudence."**
 - A. Circumspection
 - B. Corroboration
 - C. Compunction
 - D. Conflagration
7. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Abrupt."**
 - A. Punctilious
 - B. Pernicious
 - C. Prosaic
 - D. Precipitate
8. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the phrasal verb "Come into effect."**
 - A. To begin to amend or to be used as a plan or goal
 - B. To begin to arrest or to be used as a trap or wall
 - C. To begin to annul or to be used as a plea or role
 - D. To begin to apply or to be used as a law or rule
9. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the phrase "A mixed bag."**

- A. A situation or thing that has both high and low volatilities
B. A situation or thing that has both rare and common commodities
C. A situation or thing that has both good and bad qualities
D. A situation or thing that has both long and short maturities
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Reinforce.”**
A. Enrapture
B. Enunciate
C. Enfeeble
D. Encroach
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Palpable.”**
A. Impeccable
B. Impecunious
C. Impenetrable
D. Imperceptible
12. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for:**
'A person who opposes official policy'.
A. Activist
B. Agitator
C. Dissident
D. Atheist
13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
'Excessive self-importance or over-confidence.'
A. Prudence
B. Humility
C. Arrogance
D. Modesty
14. **Spot the correct spelling of a term meaning ‘study of the mind’.**
A. Sychology
B. Psychology
C. Psychollogy
D. Psycology
15. **Which of these is the correct spelling of an ethical theory prioritizing duty?**
A. Deontological
B. Deantological
C. Deontollogical
D. Deontologicel
16. **Fill in the blank with the appropriate article.**
There was scarcely _____ hope left after multiple failures.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. no article
17. **Select the correct option:**
_____ honesty is valued, transparency is indispensable.

- A. While
 - B. Whereas
 - C. Where
 - D. When
18. **Read the following sentences to find whether there is any error in any part :**
I have come to know that his father has died three days ago.
- A. I have come to
 - B. know that
 - C. his father has died
 - D. three days ago.
19. **What does "bark" mean in: "The dog barked loudly at the stranger."**
- A. A loud sound made by a dog
 - B. Outer part of a tree
 - C. A wooden texture
 - D. A sharp command
20. **Read the following sentences to find whether there is any error in any part :**
When you will find out a solution to this problem you will be awarded a prize.
- A. When you will find
 - B. out a solution
 - C. to this problem
 - D. you will be awarded a prize

Comprehension

Is it possible to (1) _____ courage if you don't have it? I was moved this week by the story of the Australian boy who (2) _____ to land for several hours in rough seas to raise the alarm that his mother and siblings had been (3) _____ to sea.

But I'm also thinking of the lesser demands for courage – such as (4) _____ up to a friend or family member, or tackling a company that's ignoring your polite requests. Or I also wonder how people do certain jobs that, to me, (5) _____ buckets of courage.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. achieve
 - B. acquire
 - C. borrow
 - D. inherit
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. floated
 - B. sailed
 - C. swam
 - D. drifted
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. swept away
 - B. swept aside
 - C. swept out
 - D. swept up
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**

- A. standing by
 - B. stand out
 - C. stand in for
 - D. Standing up
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. demand
 - B. precipitate
 - C. compel
 - D. require

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **It legally obligated verified numerical reductions in strategic arsenals**
 START I mandated actual reductions with verification, unlike SALT.
 A (Incorrect): START was bilateral, not multilateral.
 C (Incorrect): Deterrence logic remained intact.
 D (Incorrect): Delivery systems were reduced, not eliminated.
2. C) **Its structurally discriminatory division between nuclear and non-nuclear states**
 The passage explicitly calls the NPT discriminatory in structure.
 A (Incorrect): Horizontal proliferation is not the cited critique here.
 B (Incorrect): Enforcement weakness is not foregrounded.
 D (Incorrect): Technology adaptation is not discussed.
3. C) **Existing treaties lose legitimacy once emerging powers expand arsenals unchecked**
 The U.S. implies limits are unfair if others expand freely.
 A (Incorrect): The assumption moves beyond bilateral parity.
 B (Incorrect): Sustainability is implied, not explicitly assumed.
 D (Incorrect): Economic realignments are mentioned separately.
4. D) **It provides an opening to renegotiate disarmament on equitable foundations**
 The author frames the end of START as an opportunity.
 A (Incorrect): Collapse is not presented as irreversible.
 B (Incorrect): Obsolescence is not the core argument.
 C (Incorrect): Militarization risk exists, but not the concluding emphasis.
5. A) **End of START enabling renewed arms dialogue**
 The passage argues that while START's end is risky, it also creates space for more inclusive and equitable arms-control discussions.
 B (Incorrect): Cold War rivalry is background context, not the central focus.
 C (Incorrect): China is mentioned, but not as the primary theme.
 D (Incorrect): The passage does not claim treaties have failed entirely; it stresses their limitations and future potential.
6. A) **Prudence** (noun) – The quality of being prudent; cautiousness, sagacity, or wisdom in practical affairs. (विवेक/सावधानी)
 Synonym: **Circumspection** (noun) – The quality of being wary and unwilling to take risks; prudence. (एहतियात / सावधानी)
 - **Corroboration** (noun): Evidence that confirms or supports a statement, theory, or finding. (पुष्टि)
 - **Compunction** (noun): A feeling of guilt or moral scruple that prevents or follows the doing of something bad. (पछतावा)
 - **Conflagration** (noun): An extensive fire which destroys a great deal of land or property. (भीषण आग)

7. D) **Abrupt** (adjective) – Sudden and unexpected; brief to the point of rudeness. (अचानक या आकस्मिक)
 Synonym: **Precipitate** (adjective) – Done, made, or acting suddenly or without careful consideration; hasty. (जल्दबाजी में किया गया / आकस्मिक)
- **Punctilious** (adjective): Showing great attention to detail or correct behavior. (अति-सावधान)
 - **Pernicious** (adjective): Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual way. (हानिकारक)
 - **Prosaic** (adjective): Lacking poetic beauty; commonplace or very ordinary. (नीरस)
8. D) **Come into effect** (phrase) – to begin to apply or to be used as a law or rule लागू होना
9. C) **A mixed bag** (phrase) – a situation or thing that has both good and bad qualities मिला-जुला परिणाम
10. C) **Reinforce** (verb) – To strengthen or support, especially with additional personnel or material; to make a feeling or idea stronger. (सुदृढ़ करना)
 Antonym: **Enfeeble** (verb) – To make someone or something very weak or infirm; to sap the strength of. (कमजोर करना / शक्तिहीन करना)
- **Enrapture** (verb): To give intense pleasure or joy to; to fascinate. (मुग्ध करना)
 - **Enunciate** (verb): To say or pronounce clearly; to express in a definite way. (साफ बोलना)
 - **Encroach** (verb): To intrude on a person's territory or a right gradually. (अतिक्रमण करना)
11. D) **Palpable** (adjective) – tangible, noticeable, perceptible, visible, manifest स्पष्ट या प्रत्यक्ष
 Antonym: **Imperceptible** (adjective) – So slight, gradual, or subtle as not to be perceived or noticed. (अप्रत्यक्ष / सूक्ष्म)
- **Impeccable** (adjective): In accordance with the highest standards; faultless. (त्रुटिहीन)
 - **Impecunious** (adjective): Having little or no money; penniless. (निर्धन)
 - **Impenetrable** (adjective): Impossible to pass through or enter; impossible to understand. (अभेद्य)
12. C) **Dissident** (noun) – A person who opposes official policy सरकारी नीति का विरोध करने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Activist** (noun) – A person who campaigns to bring about political or social change. सामाजिक या राजनीतिक परिवर्तन के लिए अभियान चलाने वाला व्यक्ति
 - **Agitator** (noun) – A person who urges others to protest or rebel. भड़काने वाला या आंदोलन चलाने वाला व्यक्ति
 - **Atheist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in the existence of God. नास्तिक
13. C) **Arrogance** (noun) – Excessive self-importance or over-confidence घमंड, अहंकार
- **Prudence** (noun) – the quality of being cautious and showing good judgment. सावधानी, विवेक
 - **Humility** (noun) – the quality of having a modest or low view of one's importance. विनम्रता
 - **Modesty** (noun) – the quality of being unassuming or moderate in the estimation of one's abilities. सादगी, नम्रता

14. B) **Psychology** – The correct spelling of 'Psychology' is 'Psychology', which means the study of the mind and behaviour मन और व्यवहार का अध्ययन।
15. A) **Deontological** – The correct spelling of 'Deontological' is 'Deontological', which refers to an ethical theory that prioritizes duty and moral rules कर्तव्य-आधारित नैतिक सिद्धांत।
16. D) हॉ **"hope"** एक uncountable abstract noun है, और उससे पहले "scarcely" जैसा adverb लगा हुआ है, जो almost none / बहुत ही कम होने का भाव देता है। ऐसे context में article (a / an / the) का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता। "a hope" गलत होगा क्योंकि hope यहाँ specific single countable item नहीं है। "an hope" तो grammatically ही गलत है। "the hope" तब आता जब किसी specific, known hope की बात हो रही होती, जो यहाँ नहीं है। इसलिए सही sentence होगा: -"There was scarcely hope left after multiple failures."
In English
- Here, "hope" functions as an uncountable abstract noun, and it is preceded by the adverb "scarcely," which conveys the sense of almost none or hardly any. In such a context, no article is required before the noun.
The use of "a" would be incorrect because hope is not being referred to as a single countable unit,
while "an" is grammatically inappropriate. The definite article "the" would only be used if the sentence referred to a specific or previously mentioned hope, which is not the case here.
- Therefore, the correct construction is "There was scarcely hope left after multiple failures."
17. C) **Where** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह किसी परिस्थिति या स्थिति को दर्शाता है—“जहाँ ईमानदारी की कद्र होती है, वहाँ पारदर्शिता अनिवार्य है।” यह वाक्य एक specific situation या context के बारे में बता रहा है, और ऐसे संदर्भों में where सबसे उपयुक्त conjunction है।
- 'Where' should be used because the sentence indicates a specific situation or context: "Where honesty is valued, transparency is indispensable."
It sets the condition under which the second clause is true, making where the most appropriate conjunction in this context.
18. C) **has died** के बदले 'died' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में 'three days ago' दिया गया है जो Past Time-reference है, अतः Present Perfect (has died) का प्रयोग नहीं होगा, बल्कि Simple Past (died) का प्रयोग होगा।
- 'died' will be used instead of 'has died' because the phrase 'three days ago' indicates a specific past time, so Present Perfect is not used with definite past time expressions; Simple Past is required.
19. A) bark (noun/verb) – A loud sound made by a dog कुत्ते द्वारा निकाली गई तेज़ आवाज़
20. A) When you will find के बदले **'When you find'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Clause of Time (when, before, after, until, etc.) में Future Tense व्यक्त करने के लिए Future Auxiliary (will/shall) का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता; Future sense Main Clause से स्पष्ट हो जाता है।
- 'When you find' will be used instead of 'When you will find' because after time conjunctions (when, before, after, until, as soon as, etc.) we do not use will for future events; the future meaning is carried by the main clause.

21. B) **Acquire** का use सही है क्योंकि sentence में यह पूछा गया है कि क्या courage जैसी quality को develop या gain किया जा सकता है। Courage कोई physical object नहीं है, बल्कि एक trait है जो समय के साथ सीखा या विकसित किया जाता है। Acquire का अर्थ होता है किसी skill, habit या quality को धीरे-धीरे पाना। इसलिए यह context से पूरी तरह मेल खाता है। Achieve सामान्यतः goals या targets के लिए use होता है, जैसे achieve success, और courage उस category में नहीं आता। Borrow का अर्थ होता है किसी से temporary लेना, जबकि courage किसी से उधार नहीं लिया जा सकता। Inherit का use genetic या family property के संदर्भ में होता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।

- Acquire is the most appropriate option because the sentence discusses whether courage can be developed if a person initially lacks it. Courage is an internal quality or personal trait, not a physical object. The verb acquire specifically means to gain something gradually through effort, experience, or learning. This meaning aligns perfectly with the idea that courage may be cultivated over time. The option achieve is generally used for goals, targets, or measurable accomplishments such as achieving success or achieving a milestone. Courage is not typically described as an achievement in that sense. Borrow implies taking something temporarily from another person, which does not logically apply to courage. Inherit refers to receiving something genetically or legally, usually from family, which again does not suit the context of developing personal bravery.

22. C) **Swam** का use सही है क्योंकि boy ने rough sea में कई घंटों तक active physical effort किया और land तक पहुँचा। Swim का अर्थ है पानी में अपनी ताकत से आगे बढ़ना। Floated का अर्थ है surface पर टिके रहना बिना effort के। Sailed का use boats या ships के लिए होता है, न कि व्यक्ति के लिए। Drifted का अर्थ है पानी की दिशा में बिना control के बह जाना। यहाँ bravery और determination दिखाया गया है

- Swam is correct because the sentence describes the boy making an active and sustained physical effort to reach land in rough seas. The verb swim indicates controlled and intentional movement through water using one's own strength. This clearly reflects determination and courage. The option floated suggests remaining on the surface of water without significant effort or direction. It does not convey bravery or physical exertion. Sailed is typically used for boats or ships traveling on water, not for a person moving independently. Drifted implies passive movement carried by water currents without control.

23. C) **Swept out** का use सही है जिसका अर्थ है waves या currents द्वारा shore से दूर ले जाना। Swept away सामान्य अर्थ में हटाए जाने के लिए use होता है, लेकिन इसमें direction "to sea" का specific sense नहीं है। Swept aside का अर्थ है ignore करना। Swept up का अर्थ है किसी situation में भावनात्मक रूप से फँस जाना या ऊपर उठाया जाना। यहाँ physical movement toward sea दिखाया गया है,

- Swept out is correct because it describes being carried away from the shore by strong waves or currents. It clearly conveys both force and direction, which is essential in this context. Swept away is more general and does not necessarily indicate movement toward the sea. It can be used metaphorically as well. Swept aside means to ignore or dismiss something, which is unrelated to physical movement in water. Swept up often

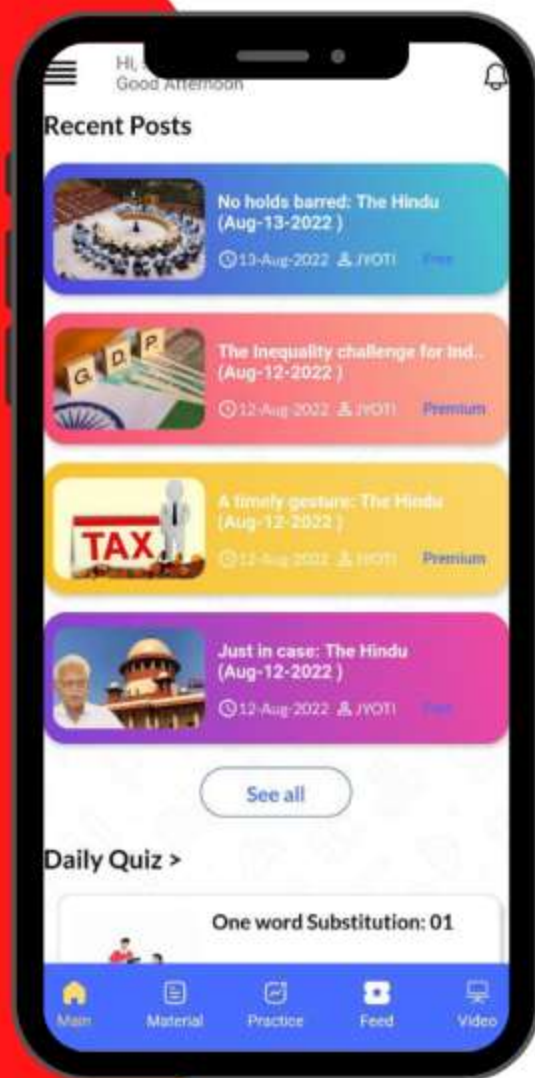
suggests becoming emotionally involved or being suddenly lifted, which does not fit the situation described.

24. D) **Standing up** का use सही है क्योंकि phrase “standing up to someone” का अर्थ है साहसपूर्वक oppose या confront करना। Sentence lesser acts of courage की बात कर रहा है, जैसे friend या family member का सामना करना। Standing by का अर्थ support करना है। Stand out का अर्थ अलग दिखना है। Stand in for का अर्थ replace करना है। केवल “standing up to” ही courage के idea को सही ढंग से व्यक्त करता है।

- Standing up” is correct because the complete expression “standing up to someone” means confronting or opposing a person bravely. The sentence refers to everyday forms of courage, such as challenging a friend, family member, or authority figure. This expression directly conveys moral strength and assertiveness. Standing by means supporting someone or waiting without intervening, which conveys the opposite idea. Stand out means to be noticeable or different, which is unrelated to courage. Stand in for means to substitute for someone, which does not match the theme of bravery.

25. D) **Require** का use सही है क्योंकि sentence यह दर्शाता है कि कुछ jobs को बहुत अधिक courage की आवश्यकता होती है। Require का अर्थ है to need as essential. Demand कभी-कभी similar लग सकता है, लेकिन उसका tone अधिक forceful होता है। Compel का अर्थ है force करना, जो यहाँ लागू नहीं होता क्योंकि job courage को force नहीं करती, बल्कि उसकी आवश्यकता होती है। Precipitate का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को अचानक cause करना, जो meaning से पूरी तरह अलग है।

- Require” is the most appropriate choice because the sentence indicates that certain jobs need or demand a significant amount of courage. The verb require means to need something as an essential condition. It expresses necessity without exaggeration. Demand can sometimes be similar, but it carries a stronger tone of insistence or pressure, which may sound slightly forceful in this reflective context. Compel means to force someone to act, implying lack of choice or external pressure, which is not suitable here because the job does not force courage—it simply needs it. Precipitate means to cause something suddenly to happen, which is completely unrelated to the idea of necessity.



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