Taking sides: On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel

India's **relations** with Israel **should** not be **at the cost of ties** with Arab world

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 24-hour **visit** to Jerusalem **was** a significant **bilateral outreach** to Israel, but a missed opportunity on Palestine, with complex consequences for India's ties with West Asia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had announced the visit in December and confirmed the dates on Sunday, indicating Israel's **keen** interest in hosting Mr. Modi. From Mr. Modi's landing, to every engagement up to his **departure**, Mr. Netanyahu personally **escorted** Mr. Modi everywhere. After bilateral talks on Thursday, the two leaders agreed to upgrade ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership", and signed a critical technologies partnership among more than 15 MoUs in AI, agriculture, culture and education. They also agreed to **facilitate** the employment of 50,000 Indian workers in Israel over the next five years. The engagement, and Mr. Netanyahu's **deep** praise for Mr. Modi and the India relationship was even more **intense** than during Mr. Modi's 2017 visit. This possibly **accrues** from the timing of the visit, as Israel faces growing **isolation** over high **casualties** in Gaza and Mr. Netanyahu's West Bank settlement plans. In the past week, Israel's West Bank proposals have been **condemned** by dozens of countries, which includes Germany, France, and the U.K. that have been measured **so far**. Mr. Netanyahu heads into an election later this year, which will be seen as a **referendum** on his record, **in terms of alleged** corruption in his government as well as for **accountability** for security **lapses** in 2023 and the civilian **toll** of Israel's response. Mr. Modi's visit would **bolster** him politically. In his speech at the Knesset, Mr. Modi referred only **obliquely** to Palestinian **sovereignty**, saying that the U.S.-led Gaza Peace Initiative, which **commits** to a two-state solution, "**holds the promise** of a just and **durable** peace... including by **addressing** the Palestine Issue". The Prime Minister said that India shared the pain and **grief** of every life lost in the October 2023 terror attack by Hamas but made no mention of the high **toll** — more than 72,000 killed — in the strikes on Gaza by Israel since then.

It is hoped that Mr. Modi will clarify India's position on the conflict, as he did after his last visit, by following it up with a visit to Palestine. **His decision** to travel **amidst** the threat of U.S. attacks on Iran **carried** the possible risk of taking sides **in the event of** a conflict. Beyond the bilateral, the outcomes of his visit will be judged globally by its impact on the larger West Asian neighbourhood. First, his announcement that India-Israel-UAE and India-Israel-UAE-U.S. "I2U2" would develop new **momentum**, as would the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), indicates New Delhi believes that regional initiatives are still **viable** despite the **polarised** atmosphere and recent deep **fault-lines**. Second, a **decision** to "stand with Israel, firmly... " **could** **come at the cost** of India's relations with other West Asian powers, which expect India to remain **steadfast** to its historically **calibrated** regional balance, and to principles of peace, **morality** and **compassion** in the Israel-Palestine conflict.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Take side** (phrase) - favoring one person or group in a dispute or conflict over another किसी का पक्ष लेना

2. **At the cost of** (phrase) - with the loss or sacrifice of something else किसी चीज़ की कीमत पर

3. **Tie** (noun) - connection, bond, link, relation, affiliation संबंध

4. **Bilateral** (adjective) - mutual, reciprocal, two-sided, joint, bipartite द्विपक्षीय

5. **Outreach** (noun) - involvement, contact, communication, engagement, accessibility संपर्क/पहुंच

6. **Keen** (adjective) - eager, anxious, intent, enthusiastic, avid उत्सुक

7. **Departure** (noun) - exit, withdrawal, leaving, exodus, retirement प्रस्थान

8. **Escort** (verb) - accompany, conduct, guide, usher, attend साथ जाना/छोड़कर आना

9. **Facilitate** (verb) - ease, expedite, simplify, assist, promote सुगम बनाना

10. **Deep** (adjective) - profound, intense, extreme, heartfelt, sincere गहरा

11. **Intense** (adjective) - acute, fierce, vehement, profound, extreme तीव्र/प्रगाढ़

12. **Accrue** (verb) - accumulate, result, arise, emanate, flow फलित होना/प्राप्त होना

13. **Isolation** (noun) - separation, segregation, detachment, loneliness, seclusion अलगाव

14. **Casualties** (noun) - victims, fatalities, losses, mortality, sufferers हताहत/मृतक

15. **Condemn** (verb) - censure, denounce, criticize, reprimand, castigate निंदा करना

16. **So far** (phrase) - up to this point in time; until now अब तक

17. **Referendum** (noun) - plebiscite, vote, poll, ballot, mandate जनमत संग्रह

18. **In terms of** (phrase) - with regard to; concerning a particular aspect के संदर्भ में

19. **Alleged** (adjective) - supposed, reported, purported, ostensible, claimed कथित

20. **Accountability** (noun) - responsibility, liability, answerability, culpability, amenability जवाबदेही

21. **Lapses** (noun) - failures, errors, blunders, omissions, faults चूक/गलतियां

22. **Toll** (noun) - count, number, damage, loss, price हताहतों की संख्या

23. **Bolster** (verb) - strengthen, support, reinforce, fortify, boost सहारा देना/मजबूत करना

24. **Obliquely** (adverb) - indirectly, evasively, implicitly, sideways, covertly परोक्ष रूप से

25. **Sovereignty** (noun) - autonomy, independence, self-rule, dominion, supremacy संप्रभुता

26. **Commit** (verb) - pledge, dedicate, devote, bind, obligate वचनबद्ध होना

27. **Hold the promise** (phrase) - likely to be successful or yield good results in the future उम्मीद जगाना

28. **Durable** (adjective) - lasting, enduring, stable, persistent, abiding स्थायी/चिरस्थायी

29. **Address** (verb) - tackle, attend, handle, confront, resolve समाधान करना

30. **Grief** (noun) - sorrow, misery, woe, sadness, anguish शोक/दुख

31. **Amidst** (preposition) - amid, during, among, throughout, betwixt के बीच में

32. **In the event of** (phrase) - if something happens; in case of something की स्थिति में

33. **Momentum** (noun) - impetus, energy, drive, thrust, speed गति/वेग

34. **Viable** (adjective) - feasible, workable, practical, applicable, usable व्यवहार्य

35. **Polarised** (adjective) - divided, split, separated, partitioned, antagonistic ध्रुवीकृत

36. **Fault-lines** (noun) - divisions, rifts, splits, fractures, gaps मतभेद

37. **Steadfast** (adjective) - loyal, faithful, resolute, constant, unwavering अडिग/दृढ़

38. **Calibrated** (adjective) - adjusted, regulated, measured, aligned, balanced नपा-तुला/समायोजित

39. **Morality** (noun) - ethics, virtue, integrity, rectitude, decency नैतिकता

40. **Compassion** (noun) - empathy, pity, kindness, benevolence, mercy दया/करुणा

Summary of the Editorial

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 24-hour visit to Israel marked a significant strengthening of bilateral ties.

2. The visit elevated India-Israel relations to a "Special Strategic Partnership."

3. Over 15 MoUs were signed, covering areas such as AI, agriculture, culture, education, and critical technologies.

4. The two countries also agreed to facilitate employment of 50,000 Indian workers in Israel.

5. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu personally hosted and accompanied Mr. Modi throughout the visit.

6. The timing of the visit is sensitive, as Israel faces global criticism over high civilian casualties in Gaza.

7. Israel's West Bank settlement plans have drawn condemnation from several European countries.

8. Netanyahu faces elections later this year, and Mr. Modi's visit may strengthen his domestic political standing.

9. In his Knesset speech, Mr. Modi referred only indirectly to Palestinian sovereignty and the two-state solution.

10. While condemning the October 2023 Hamas attack, he did not mention the high civilian toll in Gaza.

11. The editorial suggests that India should clarify its stance by also engaging directly with Palestine.

12. Visiting Israel during tensions with Iran risked perceptions of India taking sides in regional conflicts.

13. India aims to sustain regional initiatives like I2U2 and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

14. However, openly "standing with Israel" may strain India's longstanding balanced relations with Arab nations.

15. The editorial stresses that India's engagement with Israel should not undermine its historical commitment to regional balance, peace, and moral consistency.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements are correct based on the passage?**   [Editorial page]
   1. India and Israel decided to elevate their bilateral relationship to a "Special Strategic Partnership."
   2. The two countries signed more than 15 MoUs covering sectors like AI, agriculture, and education.
   3. During his Knesset speech, Prime Minister Modi detailed the high civilian death toll in Gaza.
   A. Only 1 and 2
   B. Only 2 and 3
   C. Only 1 and 3
   D. All are Correct

2. **Based on the passage, which statements reflect the challenges mentioned regarding the visit?**
   1. The visit was seen as a significant bilateral reach out to Israel but a missed opportunity on Palestine.
   2. Israel is currently facing growing international isolation due to casualties in Gaza and West Bank plans.
   A. Only 1
   B. Only 2
   C. Both 1 and 2
   D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. **Determine if the following is True or False based on the passage:**
   "Prime Minister Modi's visit is expected to politically weaken Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of the upcoming Israeli elections."
   A. True; the passage says the visit highlights Netanyahu's corruption allegations.
   B. True; the visit was condemned by Germany, France, and the U.K.
   C. False; the passage explicitly states that "Mr. Modi's visit would bolster him politically."
   D. False; the passage states that Mr. Netanyahu has already lost the election.

4. **According to the passage, what are the potential risks for India's regional balance?**
   Standing firmly with Israel could harm India's relations with other West Asian powers.
   Regional initiatives like the I2U2 and IMEC have been officially cancelled due to deep fault-lines.
   A. Only 1
   B. Only 2
   C. Both 1 and 2
   D. Neither 1 nor 2

5. **Which of the following best summarizes the author's observation on India's diplomatic stance during the visit?**
   A. India has completely shifted its policy to support only Israeli interests in West Asia.
   B. India successfully balanced its ties by visiting both Jerusalem and Palestine in 24 hours.
   C. India deepened its Israeli partnership but left its position on the Palestinian conflict needing clarification.
   D. India's visit was primarily focused on military defense rather than technology or agriculture.

6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
   LUMINOUS
   A. Dull
   B. Dim
   C. Opaque
   D. Radiant
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
   EXIGUOUS
   A. Scanty
   B. Huge
   C. Excessive
   D. Abundant
8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word:**
   ABROGATE
   A. Abolish
   B. Revoke
   C. Uphold
   D. Annul
9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
   To chew the cud of reflection
   A. Eating slowly
   B. Daydreaming without focus
   C. Pondering deeply
   D. Mentally preparing for battle
10. **Choose the correct spelling of a word meaning 'witty, clever, and verbally skillful'.**
    A. Persiflage
    B. Persiphledge
    C. Pursiflage
    D. Persiflagee
11. **Find the word that is spelled correctly and means the quality of being sarcastic in a bitter way.**
    A. Causticity
    B. Costicity
    C. Cawstic
    D. Caustisity
12. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
    'A person who supports change'.
    A. Conservative
    B. Radical
    C. Reformer
    D. Constitutionalist
13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
    'Extremely old-fashioned; belonging to a time before the biblical flood'
    A. Tale

B. Obsolete
C. Antediluvian
D. Medieval

14. **Choose the correct option:**
The anthropologist's findings were considered so controversial that they were initially _____.
A. disregarded
B. celebrated
C. acclaimed
D. adopted

15. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
The bishop condemned the act as **simony**, citing canonical law.
A. The preacher was accused of simony for charging for blessings.
B. The court equated indulgence-selling with simony.
C. The alchemist failed to explain the simony in his formulas.
D. Simony was rampant in medieval ecclesiastical courts.

16. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
She is confident **to win the match**
A. of to win
B. that she wins
C. of winning the match
D. on winning match

17. **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 to me, "You should work harder."
A. He said me that I should work harder.
B. He told me that I should work harder.
C. He told me that you should work harder.
D. He told that I should work harder.

18. **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.**
The scientist said, "We have been working on this project for months."
A. The scientist said they had been working on that project for months.
B. The scientist said they have been working on this project for months.
C. The scientist said that they were working on that project.
D. The scientist said that we had worked on this project.

19. **A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding direct speech.**
The diplomat said that only after the ceasefire would negotiations begin.
A. "Negotiations begin only after the ceasefire," said the diplomat.
B. "Only after the ceasefire, negotiations would begin," said the diplomat.
C. "Only after the ceasefire will negotiations begin," said the diplomat.
D. "Negotiations would begin once the ceasefire is announced," said the diplomat.

20. **Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical passage.**
A. The blueprint is finalized after approval from stakeholders.

B. First, a basic framework is proposed.
C. Then revisions are made after discussions.
D. Finally, execution begins as per plan.
E. 2-3-1-4
F. 1-3-2-4
G. 3-2-1-4
H. 2-1-3-4

Comprehension

In the US alone, 127 billion plastic bottles are purchased every year, according to one estimate.However, one soft drinks firm in the Midwest is keeping old school tradition alive by continuing to sell its products in returnable glass bottles. For almost a century, until the 1960s, soda bottles in the US were generally meant to be returned. Customers had to pay a deposit for the (1) _____ glass bottles. They then got this money back when they returned them to the shop. And the bottles would be washed and refilled over and over again. Sadly the adoption of plastic meant that this system was phased out, but one soft drinks producer – family-owned Twig's Beverage – has stuck to it. Customers in its home county of Shawano County, in Wisconsin, pay a $20 (£15) deposit per case of 24. They can even go direct to the Twig's factory in the city of Shawano to have the same bottles refilled. Some are vintage ones still going strong after 60 or so years.We've been seeing some families come in for years," says Twig's vice-president Ben Hartwig. "Cases get passed down and the next family member gets to bring them in. That nostalgic feel is something that long-time customers (2) _____ those cases like gold.They will be in glass bottles, but for the (3) _____ future at least, they won't be returnable. "We are slowly picking up distributors and growing the brand," says Hartwig. Explaining why customers further (4) _____ will be asked to recycle the bottles instead of returning them, Hartwig adds: "If the people purchasing them are from a different state, it's very unlikely they'll bring them back." Now celebrating its 75th anniversary, Twig's story began in a Tokyo hospital bed where Floyd Hartwig was (5) _____ after being shot in both legs during the Korean War.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
    A. translucent
    B. disposable
    C. sturdy
    D. hypochondriac
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
    A. impale
    B. modus operandi
    C. cherish
    D. nonplussed
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
    A. foreseeable
    B. rendezvous
    C. thoroughfare
    D. tinsel
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**

    A. offshore
    B. afield
    C. whittle
    D. precipice

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
    A. convalescing
    B. recuperating
    C. recalibrated
    D. camouflaged

Answers

1.	A	2. C	3.C	4. A	5. C	6.D	7. A	8. C	9. C	10.A	11.A	12.C

13. C   14.A   15.C   16.C   17.B   18.A   19.C   20.A   21.C   22.C   23.A   24.B

25. B   **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

1. **A) Only 1 and 2**
   Statement 1 – Correct: The passage explicitly states that the two leaders "agreed to upgrade ties to a 'Special Strategic Partnership'," which is exactly what the statement says.
   Statement 2 – Correct: The passage explicitly states that they "signed a critical technologies partnership among more than 15 MoUs in AI, agriculture, culture and education," as the statement says.
   Statement 3 – Incorrect: The statement says the death toll was detailed, but the passage explicitly states Mr. Modi "made no mention of the high toll—more than 72,000 killed—in the strikes on Gaza."

2. **C) Both 1 and 2**
   Statement 1 – Correct: The passage explicitly states the visit was a "significant bilateral outreach to Israel, but a missed opportunity on Palestine," which matches the statement.
   Statement 2 – Correct: The passage explicitly states that "Israel faces growing isolation over high casualties in Gaza and Mr. Netanyahu's West Bank settlement plans," as the statement says.

3. **C) False; the passage explicitly states that "Mr. Modi's visit would bolster him politically."**
   The passage explicitly states that the visit would "bolster him [Netanyahu] politically," making the original claim False.

4. **A) Only 1**
   Statement 1 – Correct: The passage explicitly states a decision to stand with Israel "could come at the cost of India's relations with other West Asian powers," as the statement says.
   Statement 2 – Incorrect: The statement says the initiatives are cancelled, but the passage explicitly states Mr. Modi announced they "would develop new momentum."

5. **C) India deepened its Israeli partnership but left its position on the Palestinian conflict needing clarification.**
   Option A – Incorrect: The statement says India shifted only to Israel, but the passage explicitly mentions India's desire to remain "steadfast to its historically calibrated regional balance."
   Option B– Incorrect: The statement says he visited both, but the passage explicitly states it was a "missed opportunity on Palestine" and hopes he follows it up with a visit there.
   Option C – Correct: The passage explicitly states it was a "significant bilateral outreach" but hopes Mr. Modi "will clarify India's position... by following it up with a visit to Palestine."
   Option D– Incorrect: The statement says it was primarily military, but the passage explicitly highlights MoUs in "AI, agriculture, culture and education."

6. D) **Luminous** (adjective) – Shining, glowing, bright, lustrous, radiant प्रकाशमान
   Synonym: **Radiant** (adjective) – Sending out light; shining or glowing brightly. दीप्तिमान
   - **Dull** (adjective) – Lacking brightness or interest; not shiny. फीका
   - **Dim** (adjective) – Not bright or clear; faint. मंद
   - **Opaque** (adjective) – Not able to be seen through; not transparent. अपारदर्शी

7. A) **Exiguous** (adjective) – Meager, scanty, small in amount, inadequate, insufficient. अल्प, बहुत कम

    Synonym: **Scanty** (adjective) – Insufficient in quantity or amount, meager, sparse, skimpy. अपर्याप्त

    - **Huge** (adjective) – Extremely large, enormous, massive. विशाल
    - **Excessive** (adjective) – More than necessary, extreme, undue. अत्यधिक
    - **Abundant** (adjective) – Present in large quantities, plentiful, ample. प्रचुर

8. C) **Abrogate** (verb) – To cancel, abolish, annul, or repeal officially रद्द करना

    Antonym: **Uphold** (verb) – To support, maintain, or defend something, especially a law or principle समर्थन करना, बनाए रखना

    - **Abolish** (verb) – To formally put an end to, terminate, annul समाप्त करना
    - **Revoke** (verb) – To officially cancel or withdraw वापस लेना
    - **Annul** (verb) – To declare invalid or cancel officially अमान्य करना

9. C) **To chew the cud of reflection** (idiom) – Pondering deeply गहराई से विचार करना

10. A) The correct spelling of the word is 'Persiflage' which means "light and slightly contemptuous mockery or banter" — witty, clever, and verbally skillful talk. हल्की-फुल्की चुहलबाजी, मज़ाकिया बातचीत.

11. A) The correct spelling is 'Causticity' which means "the quality of being sarcastic in a bitter or scathing way" तीखी व्यंग्यता, कटुता.

12. C) **Reformer**

    A Reformer is a person who advocates or supports change, especially improvements or amendments in a system, society, or institution.

    - **Conservative** means someone who prefers to maintain the existing conditions or traditions.
    - **Radical** refers to someone who desires extreme or fundamental changes, but it is not the general term for a supporter of change.
    - **Constitutionalist** means someone who supports a particular constitution or constitutional government.

13. C) **Antediluvian** (adjective) – Extremely old-fashioned; belonging to a time before the biblical flood अत्यंत प्राचीन, आदिकालीन

    - **Tale** (noun) – a fictitious or true narrative or story, especially one that is imaginatively recounted. कहानी, कथा
    - **Obsolete** (adjective) – no longer in use or out of date. अप्रचलित, पुराना
    - **Medieval** (adjective) – relating to the Middle Ages; very old-fashioned (but later than antediluvian). मध्ययुगीन, पुरातन

14. A) **'disregarded'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में वाक्य यह बताता है कि मानवविज्ञानी (anthropologist) की खोजें इतनी विवादास्पद (controversial) थीं कि उन्हें प्रारंभ में अनदेखा कर दिया गया। यहाँ "disregarded" का अर्थ है "नज़रअंदाज़ किया गया" या "गंभीरता से नहीं लिया गया", जो संदर्भ के अनुरूप है।

    - **'Disregarded'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence conveys that the anthropologist's findings were so controversial that they were initially ignored. The

word "disregarded" means "not considered important" or "ignored," which fits the meaning perfectly.

15. C) **The alchemist failed to explain the simony in his formulas**.

वाक्य में 'simony' का अर्थ है — धार्मिक पद या वरदान को धन देकर खरीदने या बेचने का अपराध (the buying or selling of church offices or spiritual benefits)।

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

विकल्प C में 'simony' शब्द का प्रयोग रसायनशास्त्र या रासायनिक प्रक्रिया (alchemy/chemistry) के सन्दर्भ में हुआ है, जो पूरी तरह से भिन्न अर्थ देता है।

यहाँ इसका प्रयोग 'similar sounding' लेकिन भिन्न अर्थ में है।

इसलिए यह वाक्य homonym का उदाहरण है।

In the highlighted sentence, simony means the sin of buying or selling ecclesiastical privileges or church offices.

In option C, simony is used with a different contextual meaning (as a supposed scientific or alchemical term), unrelated to religion.

They share the same pronunciation and spelling, but their meanings differ, making them homonyms.

16. C) 'of winning the match' के बदले प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि adjective 'confident' के बाद preposition 'of' और gerund (verb + ing) का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— She is confident of passing the exam.

3) of winning the match

'of winning the match' is correct because after the adjective 'confident', the preposition 'of' is followed by a gerund (verb + ing).

Example: She is confident of passing the exam.

17. B) **'He told me that I should work harder**.'

Direct Speech को Indirect Speech में बदलते समय 'said to' को 'told' में बदला जाता है और उसके बाद 'that' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "He said to me" Reporting Clause है और "You should work harder" Reported Speech है। Indirect में बदलने पर Pronoun "you" को "I" में बदला गया है क्योंकि Reporting Verb का Object "me" है।

To convert Direct to Indirect Speech:

Remove the quotation marks.

Change the pronouns appropriately.

Use reporting verbs like "said" or "told" correctly.

Add the conjunction "that" to introduce the reported clause.

Adjust word order and tense if needed.

In this sentence:

Reporting clause: He said to me

Direct speech: "You should work harder."

Changes made:

"You" changes to "I" because the speaker is reporting what was said to me.

"said to me" changes to "told me" because "tell" is used with an indirect object (me).

Add "that" before the reported clause.

Correct indirect speech:

He told me that I should work harder. (Option 2)

18. A) 'The scientist said they had been working on that project for months.' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Direct Speech में Reporting Verb "said" Past Tense में है और Reported Speech में Present Perfect Continuous Tense "have been working" को Past Perfect Continuous "had been working" में बदला गया है। साथ ही "this" को "that" में परिवर्तित किया गया है क्योंकि यह Indirect Speech में सामान्य नियम है।

To convert Direct to Indirect Speech:
> Remove the quotation marks.
> Change pronouns appropriately.
> Shift the tense back one step because the reporting verb "said" is in the past tense.

> Add the conjunction "that" to introduce the reported clause.

In this sentence:
> Reporting clause: The scientist said
> Direct speech: "We have been working on this project for months."

Changes made:
> "We" changes to "they"
> Present Perfect Continuous "have been working" changes to Past Perfect Continuous "had been working" due to the past reporting verb
> "this project" changes to "that project"

Correct indirect speech:
The scientist said they had been working on that project for months. (Option 1)

19. C) "**Only after the ceasefire will negotiations begin,**" said the diplomat.

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, 'that' को हटाया जाता है और वाक्य को उद्धरण चिह्न (" ") में लिखा जाता है। Reported Speech में जो Tense होता है, उसे Direct Speech के अनुसार बदला जाता है। यहाँ "said that" को "said" में बदला गया है, और Indirect वाक्य "only after the ceasefire would negotiations begin" में 'would' (Past form of will) को Direct Speech में वर्तमान काल दर्शाने के लिए 'will' में बदला गया है। वाक्य का क्रम भी सामान्य Direct शैली में लाया गया है।

To convert Indirect to Direct Speech:
> Remove the conjunction "that."
> Use quotation marks around the reported speech.
> Change the word order to fit direct speech format, especially with inversion in conditional or time clauses.
> Keep the tense and modal verbs appropriate to the original meaning.

In this sentence:
> Reporting clause: The diplomat said
> Reported clause: that only after the ceasefire would negotiations begin.

Changes made:
> Remove "that"
> Change "would negotiations begin" to "will negotiations begin" to fit natural direct speech tense/modal usage
> Keep the phrase "Only after the ceasefire" at the beginning as in reported speech

Add quotation marks

Correct direct speech:

"Only after the ceasefire will negotiations begin," said the diplomat. (Option 3)

20. A) **2-3-1-4**

2 starts the paragraph by introducing the initial step—proposing a basic framework.

3 follows as it explains that revisions are made after discussions on the proposed framework.

1 comes next, describing the finalization of the blueprint after stakeholder approval.

4 concludes the paragraph by mentioning the execution phase based on the approved plan.

- 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह पहला कदम—basic framework का प्रस्ताव—बताता है।
- 3 इसके बाद आता है जो discussion के बाद संशोधन (revisions) को स्पष्ट करता है।
- 1 इसके बाद blueprint के finalization और stakeholder की मंजूरी को बताता है।
- 4 अंत में आता है जो approved plan के अनुसार कार्यान्वयन (execution) को दर्शाता है।

21. C) Sturdy सही है क्योंकि sentence में glass bottles के बारे में बताया गया है जिन पर deposit दिया जाता था और जिन्हें बार-बार wash और refill किया जाता था। "Sturdy" का मतलब है strong और durable। "Translucent" का मतलब है light pass होने देना, "Disposable" का मतलब है एक बार use करके फेंक देना, और "Hypochondriac" एक व्यक्ति को कहते हैं जो अपनी health को लेकर ज़्यादा चिंतित रहता है।

- Sturdy is correct because the sentence refers to glass bottles that required a deposit and were washed and refilled repeatedly. "Sturdy" means strong and durable, which fits reusable glass bottles. "Translucent" means allowing light to pass through, "Disposable" means meant to be thrown away after one use, and "Hypochondriac" refers to a person who is excessively worried about health

22. C) **Cherish** सही है क्योंकि sentence में बताया गया है कि long-time customers उन cases को बहुत value देते हैं। "Cherish" का मतलब है deeply value करना या प्यार से संभाल कर रखना। "Impale" का मतलब है किसी को नुकीली चीज़ से भेद देना, "Modus operandi" का मतलब है काम करने का तरीका, और "Nonplussed" का मतलब है confused या surprised।

- Cherish is correct because the sentence says long-time customers value those cases deeply. "Cherish" means to value or hold something dear. "Impale" means to pierce with a sharp object, "Modus operandi" means a method of working, and "Nonplussed" means confused or surprised.

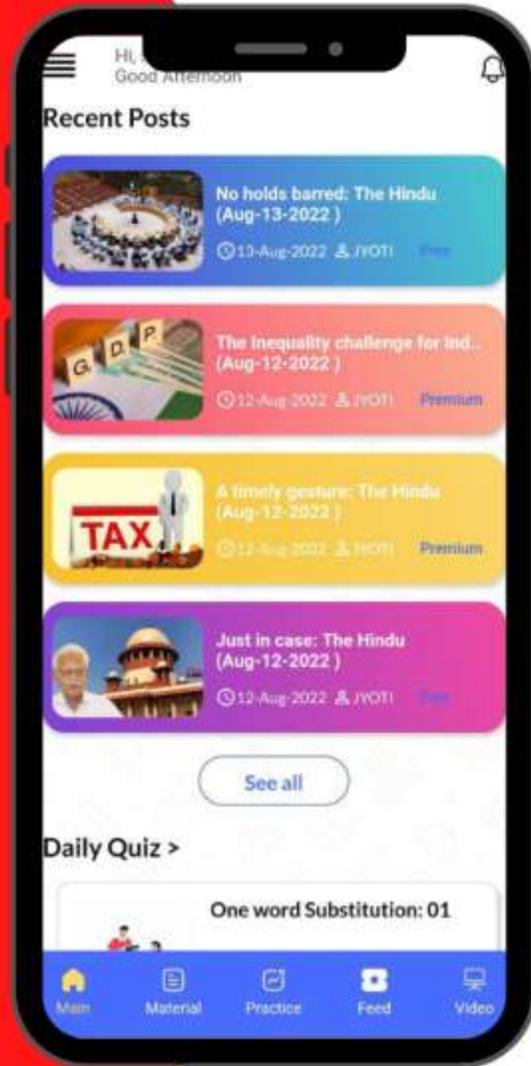23. A) **Foreseeable** सही है क्योंकि sentence कहता है कि future में bottles returnable नहीं होंगी। "Foreseeable future" का मतलब है निकट भविष्य जिसे हम अंदाज़ा लगा सकते हैं। "Rendezvous" का मतलब है meeting, "Thoroughfare" का मतलब है main road, और "Tinsel" का मतलब है सजावट की चमकीली पट्टी।

- Foreseeable is correct because the sentence refers to the "foreseeable future," meaning the near future that can be predicted. "Rendezvous" means a meeting, "Thoroughfare" means a main road, and "Tinsel" refers to decorative shiny material.

24. B) **Afield** सही है क्योंकि sentence में customers further _____ की बात है, यानी जो दूर रहते हैं। "Afield" का मतलब है away from home या दूर के स्थान पर। "Offshore" समुद्र के बाहर वाले क्षेत्र के लिए होता है, "Whittle" का मतलब है काटकर छोटा करना, और "Precipice" का मतलब है खड़ी चट्टान का किनारा।

- Foreseeable is correct because the sentence refers to the "foreseeable future," meaning the near future that can be predicted. "Rendezvous" means a meeting, "Thoroughfare" means a main road, and "Tinsel" refers to decorative shiny material.

25. B) **Recuperating** सही है क्योंकि Floyd Hartwig hospital bed पर थे और गोली लगने के बाद recovery कर रहे थे। "Recuperating" का मतलब है recover करना या health वापस पाना। "Convalescing" भी recovery का अर्थ देता है, लेकिन passage में original word "recuperating" है और वही expected answer है। "Recalibrated" का मतलब है फिर से adjust करना, और "Camouflaged" का मतलब है छिपाना।

   - Recuperating is correct because Floyd Hartwig was in a hospital recovering after being shot. "Recuperating" means recovering health and strength. "Convalescing" also means recovering, but the correct word given in the passage is "recuperating." "Recalibrated" means adjusted again, and "Camouflaged" means hidden.