

No end to suffering: On the Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict

India must **enlist** more support against Pakistan's **bombing** of Afghanistan

As the U.S.-Israel war against Iran **rages**, India's western frontiers have **flared up, intensified** by recent **clashes** between Pakistan and Afghanistan forces on the **Durand Line**. On Tuesday, Pakistani **airstrikes** tragically killed at least 400 Afghans at a drug treatment and **rehabilitation** centre. **Pakistan**, which has **accused** the Taliban administration **of harbouring** the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and supporting its terror attacks on Pakistan, **denied** Afghanistan's **accusations**, **claiming** that its strikes had only targeted "military installations". Despite the **denial**, it is clear from visuals that the Omid Rehabilitation Facility in Kabul was destroyed. In an extremely strong statement, India **condemned** what it called Pakistan's "**cowardly**" targeting of a hospital, rejecting its denial as a cover-up for a "**massacre**", and **called for** an international inquiry. The Pakistan-Afghanistan **conflict**, which has been **simmering** for over a year, **escalated** in February when the Pakistan Air Force struck Taliban bases in Kabul, Kandahar, and Paktia in what it called Operation Ghazab Lil Haq (Righteous Fury). Tensions have also risen after TTP attacks killed 11 soldiers and a child in Bajaur and 32 people in an Islamabad mosque **following** a suicide bombing. Pakistan has also been angered by closer India-Afghanistan **ties** and New Delhi's **hosting** of Taliban ministers, accusing the Taliban of turning Afghanistan into an "Indian colony" — a **turnaround** from its support in 2021, for the Taliban's rise to power in Kabul. Apart from its continued tensions and **hatred** of India, and now Afghanistan, Pakistan possibly benefits from the global focus on the U.S.-Israel war with Iran. The U.S.'s **actions** here and its statement expressing support for Pakistan's "right to defend itself against Taliban attacks", **has** also **imbued** Pakistan's generals with a sense of **impunity** to strike targets in Afghanistan **at will**.

New Delhi could be permitted some sense of 'payback' as Islamabad's **fight** against cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan **mirrors** India's problems with Pakistan. The **constraints** on Pakistan's military in a two-front situation with India and Afghanistan, **compounded** by a transnational war on the third front, **may** also be the source of some relief for India. With no dialogue with Pakistan, and the limited dialogue with a Taliban **regime** it **deals with** but does not formally recognise, India's diplomatic role in the conflict is limited. However, it must enlist other SCO members that have been concerned over the **outbreak** of an "open war" between Pakistan and Afghanistan, to **intervene**. The region is already suffering from trade, energy and travel restrictions **as a result of** the West Asia war, to risk more **volatility** and loss of lives, particularly in Afghanistan, where **the vulnerable**, especially women, **have** suffered the most.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Enlist** (verb) - recruit, engage, mobilize, secure, obtain जुटाना
2. **Bombing** (noun) - bombardment, shelling, air strike, blitz, cannonade बमबारी
3. **Rage** (verb) - storm, rampage, surge, boil, flare प्रचंड होना
4. **Flare up** (phrasal verb) - to suddenly become more intense or violent अचानक भड़क उठना
5. **Intensify** (verb) - heighten, aggravate, sharpen, escalate, augment तेज करना
6. **Clash** (noun) - skirmish, confrontation, conflict, fray, brush झड़प
7. **Durand Line** (noun) - the international land border between afghanistan and pakistan डूरंड रेखा
8. **Airstrike** (noun) - aerial attack, bombing raid, air assault, bombardment, sortie हवाई हमला
9. **Rehabilitation** (noun) - recovery, restoration, renewal, reformation, recuperation पुनर्वास
10. **Accuse** (verb) - charge, indict, impeach, incriminate, arraign आरोप लगाना
11. **Harbour** (verb) - shelter, shield, protect, conceal, hide शरण देना
12. **Accusation** (noun) - allegation, charge, complaint, indictment, claim अभियोग
13. **Claim** (verb) - assert, maintain, declare, profess, state दावा करना
14. **Denial** (noun) - refutation, contradiction, rejection, disclaimer, negation इनकार
15. **Condemn** (verb) - censure, denounce, criticize, decry, reprehend निंदा करना
16. **Cowardly** (adjective) - craven, dastardly, timid, spineless, pusillanimous कायरतापूर्ण
17. **Massacre** (noun) - carnage, slaughter, butchery, genocide, bloodbath हत्याकांड
18. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to publicly ask for something to happen मांग करना
19. **Simmer** (verb) - brew, stew, fume, seethe, smolder सुलगना
20. **Escalate** (verb) - intensify, mount, soar, spiral, expand तीव्र होना
21. **Follow** (verb) - ensue, succeed, result, trail, track के बाद होना
22. **Tie** (noun) - bond, connection, link, relation, association संबंध
23. **Host** (verb) - accommodate, entertain, receive, house, welcome मेजबानी करना
24. **Turnaround** (noun) - reversal, about-face, shift, change, u-turn कायापलट
25. **Hatred** (noun) - animosity, loathing, enmity, detestation, rancour नफरत
26. **Imbue** (verb) - permeate, saturate, instill, infuse, pervade ओत-प्रोत करना
27. **Impunity** (noun) - immunity, exemption, dispensation, freedom, license दंडमुक्ति
28. **At will** (phrase) - whenever or however one wishes स्वेच्छा से
29. **Mirror** (verb) - reflect, mimic, echo, parallel, emulate प्रतिबिंबित करना
30. **Constraint** (noun) - restriction, limitation, curb, restraint, check बाधा

31. **Compound** (verb) - aggravate, worsen, exacerbate, magnify, intensify और बिगाड़ देना
32. **Regime** (noun) - system, administration, government, rule, authority शासन
33. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) - to take action to manage a person or situation निपटना
34. **Outbreak** (noun) - eruption, outburst, flare-up, onset, rash प्रकोप
35. **Intervene** (verb) - interfere, mediate, arbitrate, intercede, intrude हस्तक्षेप करना
36. **As a result of** (phrase) - because of something that happened earlier के परिणामस्वरूप
37. **Volatility** (noun) - instability, uncertainty, turbulence, fluctuation, fickleness अस्थिरता
38. **Vulnerable** (adjective) - helpless, defenseless, exposed, weak, susceptible असुरक्षित

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Pakistan–Afghanistan conflict has intensified amid the global distraction caused by the U.S.–Israel war with Iran.
2. Recent clashes along the Durand Line have escalated tensions between the two countries.
3. Pakistani airstrikes reportedly killed around 400 Afghans at a rehabilitation centre in Kabul.
4. Pakistan denied targeting civilians, claiming it only struck military installations.
5. Evidence suggests that a civilian facility (Omid Rehabilitation Centre) was destroyed.
6. India strongly condemned the attack, calling it a “cowardly” act and demanding an international inquiry.
7. Pakistan accuses the Taliban regime of sheltering Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants.
8. The conflict worsened after Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab Lil Haq targeting Taliban bases.
9. TTP attacks within Pakistan, including killings in Bajaur and Islamabad, have further aggravated tensions.
10. Pakistan is also uneasy about improving India–Afghanistan relations and India’s engagement with Taliban leaders.
11. Islamabad has accused Afghanistan of becoming an “Indian colony,” reflecting shifting geopolitical narratives.
12. Pakistan may be taking advantage of reduced global attention due to the West Asia conflict.
13. U.S. support for Pakistan’s “right to defend itself” has emboldened its military actions.
14. India may gain strategic relief as Pakistan faces pressure from multiple fronts (India, Afghanistan, and internal militancy).
15. India should work with SCO members to push for diplomatic intervention, as continued conflict will worsen regional instability and humanitarian suffering, especially for vulnerable Afghan populations.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Consider the following statements based on the passage:** [Editorial Page]
1. Pakistani airstrikes on a drug rehabilitation centre in Afghanistan resulted in the deaths of at least 400 people.
 2. Operation Ghazab Lil Haq was a military campaign launched by the Taliban against Pakistani bases in Islamabad.
 3. Pakistan has accused the Taliban administration of turning Afghanistan into an "Indian colony" due to closer ties.
 4. India has formally recognized the Taliban regime as the legitimate government of Afghanistan following the 2021 rise.
- A. Only 1 and 2 are correct
B. Only 1 and 3 are correct
C. Only 2 and 4 are correct
D. Only 1, 3, and 4 are correct
2. **How did India officially respond to the Pakistani airstrikes on the drug rehabilitation centre in Kabul?**
- A. India offered military support to Pakistan to help fight the TTP.
B. India condemned the attack as a massacre and called for an inquiry.
C. India officially recognized the Taliban regime to counter Pakistan.
D. India remained neutral to avoid tensions with the United States.
3. **Why does the passage suggest that Pakistan's generals currently feel a sense of "impunity" to strike Afghanistan?**
- A. Because the Taliban has surrendered all military bases in Kandahar.
B. Because India has stopped monitoring the Durand Line border areas.
C. Because the SCO members have encouraged an open war in the region.
D. Because the U.S. expressed support for Pakistan's right to defend.
4. **Which of the following best provides a comprehensive summary of the central theme of the passage?**
- A. The tactical military success of Operation Ghazab Lil Haq in neutralizing TTP terror cells in Islamabad.
B. The role of the United States in mediating the border dispute between Pakistan and India on the Durand Line.
C. The escalation of Pakistan-Afghanistan hostilities and the complex diplomatic and security implications for India.
D. The historical evolution of the drug rehabilitation centers in Kabul since the Taliban took power in 2021.
5. **What do you understand by the author's mention of "payback" for New Delhi in the context of this conflict?**
- A. India is providing financial loans to the Taliban to pay back Pakistan's debts.
B. India is receiving monetary compensation from the SCO for its diplomatic role.
C. Pakistan now faces the same cross-border terror issues it once caused India.
D. Pakistan is being forced to pay for the reconstruction of the Omid facility.

6. **Directions: Given below are six sentences taken from an editorial. The first and the last sentences are numbered S1 and S6 and are placed in the first and last positions respectively. The other four sentences between them are jumbled up and are numbered A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a logical sequence.**
- S1. Israel's decision to authorise its military to kill any senior Iranian official has raised significant new questions about its so-called decapitation strategy and what it is intended to achieve.
- A. That grim internal assessment appears to be completely at odds with the official strategy of pursuing regime change by targeting these senior figures.
- B. Privately, Israeli officials have briefed their US counterparts that in the event of an uprising following these eliminations, Iran's opposition would simply be "slaughtered."
- C. Under this aggressive approach, the targeted attacks have so far killed several top-tier leaders, including the security chief and the intelligence minister.
- D. Even before the outbreak of full-scale war, however, analysts and former officials were highly sceptical that the clerical regime could be toppled by such strikes.
- S6. Ultimately, at the heart of the issue is not just the elimination of leaders, but the inherent structure and resilience of Iran's regime in the face of these attacks.
- A. CBDA
B. DCBA
C. CDBA
D. BADC
7. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrase:**
As the deadline approached, the team was working _____ to finalize the report.
- A. under wraps
B. around the corner
C. against the clock
D. in high spirits
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Hapless**
- A. Fortunate
B. Lucky
C. Unlucky
D. Successful
9. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiom:**
She took the criticism _____ and used it to improve her performance.
- A. at face value
B. with a grain of salt
C. in stride
D. out of context
10. **Which of the following sentences uses the word "saw" with the same meaning as in the following sentence?**
"He saw the car coming too late."
- A. She used a hand saw to cut the plank in half.
B. We needed a power saw to cut through the thick branch.

- C. I saw a beautiful sunset last night.
D. The lumberjack's saw was very loud.
11. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Beurocrat
B. Burocrat
C. Bureaucrat
D. Buroucrat
12. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Iresistible
B. Irresistable
C. Irresistible
D. Irresistble
13. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: As thick as thieves**
A. Very close and loyal
B. Very secretive
C. Very sneaky
D. Very quiet
14. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
A person who studies birds
A. Biologist
B. Ornithologist
C. Ecologist
D. Zoologist
15. **Rearrange the following sentence parts to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph:**
P. But the fleet was caught off guard as a sudden, strong storm blew in from the sea.
Q. Confident in their strategy to blockade the enemy port, the admiral gave the order for the ships to proceed.
R. The conflict became a desperate struggle for survival due to the unanticipated weather.
S. Without firing a shot, they were to cut off supplies and compel a surrender.
A. P, S, Q, R
B. S, R, P, Q
C. Q, S, P, R
D. R, S, P, Q
16. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Felicity**
A. Misery
B. Despair
C. Sorrow
D. Anger
17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Repudiate**
A. Reject
B. Disown
C. Deny
D. Accept

18. Choose the correct one-word substitute for:

A place where records and documents are stored

- A. Archive
- B. Library
- C. Storage
- D. Depository

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

I am not one of these people who **believes** in rumours.

- A. believer
- B. believe
- C. believing
- D. to believe

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

The organized sellers with the ability to control their price-lines, or pass on any increase in cost to customers, should be able to maintain or improve profit margin.

- A. should be able to maintain or improve profit margins
- B. will be able to maintains or improve profit margin
- C. will be able to maintain or improves profit margin
- D. will be abled to maintain or improve profit margin

Comprehension

Image manipulation and the unreliability of the visual media we (1) ___ is causing widespread concern. Elon Musk's controversial AI chatbot, Grok, which caused (2) ___ after it was used to alter images of people so that they appear stripped of their clothing, is the latest in a series of sophisticated digital imaging tools that have falsified photographs and, in some cases, caused serious harm. In January, following widespread criticism, this function was disabled for most users, and the European Commission launched an investigation (3) ___ its use. It will take more than this, however, to restore our faith in the photographic image. Since the early days of Photoshop in the 1990s, developments in image (4) ___ have seen us looking at photographs with rising suspicion. But the Rijksmuseum's latest photography exhibition asks a (5) ___ question: Have photographs ever told the truth? Focusing on images taken between 1860 and 1940, Fake! Early Photo Collages and Photomontages from the Rijksmuseum Collection makes the case that image fakery is far from a recent phenomenon and, when used wisely, can even be a force for good. From collages created with scissors and glue to clever deceptions fabricated under cover of darkness in their developing rooms, photographers have always enjoyed fooling their audiences.

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

- A. indulge
- B. consume
- C. peruse
- D. partake

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

- A. melancholy
- B. dissent
- C. grievance

- D. uproar
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
- A. in
 - B. with
 - C. by
 - D. into
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
- A. fakery
 - B. imitation
 - C. delusion
 - D. hypocrisy
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
- A. contingent
 - B. proportional
 - C. subjective
 - D. pertinent

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **Only 1 and 3 are correct**

Statement 1 is directly mentioned regarding the Omid facility.

Statement 3 reflects Pakistan's accusation.

Statement 2 is incorrect as the operation was launched by Pakistan, not the Taliban.

Statement 4 is incorrect as the passage states India "deals with but does not formally recognise" the regime.

2. B) **India condemned the attack as a massacre and called for an inquiry.**

The passage states India condemned the "cowardly" targeting, rejected the denial as a "cover-up for a massacre," and called for an international inquiry.

(A) is wrong: India condemned Pakistan's actions; it did not offer them military support.

(C) is wrong: As mentioned above, India has maintained a policy of not providing formal recognition to the regime.

(D) is wrong: India was not neutral; it issued an "extremely strong statement" calling the attack a "massacre."

3. D) **Because the U.S. expressed support for Pakistan's right to defend.**

The passage notes that the U.S. statement supporting Pakistan's "right to defend itself" has imbued the generals with a sense of impunity.

(A) is wrong: The passage indicates the Taliban is actively fighting and harbouring the TTP, not surrendering bases.

(C) is wrong: The SCO members are described as being concerned over the "open war," not encouraging it.

(B) is wrong: The Durand Line is the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan; India's monitoring of its own borders is not the cause of Pakistan's behavior here.

4. C) **The escalation of Pakistan-Afghanistan hostilities and the complex diplomatic and security implications for India.**

This option covers the conflict, the humanitarian crisis, the geopolitical shifts (U.S. role), and India's specific diplomatic constraints and "payback" perspective mentioned throughout the passage.

(A) is wrong: This focuses only on a specific military operation, which is just a detail, not the central theme.

(B) is wrong: The U.S. is shown supporting Pakistan's "right to defend," but is not described as a mediator between India and Pakistan in this context.

(D) is wrong: While the rehabilitation center was a tragic target, its "historical evolution" is not the focus of this geopolitical analysis.

5. C) **Pakistan now faces the same cross-border terror issues it once caused India.**

The author notes that "Islamabad's fight against cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan mirrors India's problems with Pakistan," suggesting a sense of irony or "payback" in the situation.

(A), (B), & (D) are wrong: "Payback" in this context is metaphorical and ironic. It refers to the "poetic justice" of Pakistan suffering from the same cross-border terrorism issues it has historically exported to India. It does not refer to literal monetary payments or debts.

6. C) **Correct Sequence: S1-C-D-B-A-S6**

Sentence C, S1 के तुरंत बाद आता है क्योंकि "this aggressive approach" सीधे तौर पर S1 में बताई गई "decapitation strategy" (नेतृत्व खत्म करने की रणनीति) को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि इस रणनीति के तहत अब तक क्या action लिया गया है (security chief और intelligence minister को मारा गया है)।

Sentence D, Sentence C के बाद आता है क्योंकि "such strikes" (ऐसे हमले) सीधे तौर पर Sentence C में बताए गए "targeted attacks" को refer करता है। "However" का उपयोग करके यह बताता है कि इन हमलों के बावजूद experts को शक (sceptical) था कि इससे सरकार गिरेगी या नहीं।

Sentence B, Sentence D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Sentence D के skepticism (शक) का एक अंदरूनी उदाहरण देता है। यह बताता है कि Israeli officials खुद private में मानते हैं कि अगर वहां बगावत (uprising) हुई, तो विपक्ष को बुरी तरह मार दिया जाएगा (slaughtered)।

Sentence A, Sentence B के बाद आता है और S6 से पहले एक मजबूत link बनाता है। "That grim internal assessment" (वह भयानक अंदरूनी आकलन) सीधे तौर पर Sentence B में दी गई "slaughtered" वाली briefing को refer करता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि उनका private आकलन उनकी public strategy के बिल्कुल खिलाफ (at odds) है।

Sentence C follows S1 immediately because the phrase "this aggressive approach" points directly back to the "decapitation strategy" introduced in S1. It details the actual implementation of that strategy, noting the specific assassinations carried out so far.

Sentence D comes next because the phrase "such strikes" is a direct reference to the "targeted attacks" and killings mentioned in Sentence C. It introduces a contrasting viewpoint using "however," showing that analysts doubted the ultimate effectiveness of these strikes.

Sentence B follows because it provides a specific, behind-the-scenes example that reinforces the doubts mentioned in Sentence D. It reveals that Israeli officials privately briefed the US that an uprising would result in the opposition being "slaughtered."

Sentence A comes last because "That grim internal assessment" undeniably links back to the private briefing about the opposition being "slaughtered" in Sentence B. It concludes the jumbled section by pointing out the stark contradiction between this private reality and their public goal of regime change.

7. C) **against the clock** – working with great urgency because time is running out समय कम होने पर जल्दी-जल्दी काम करना

- **under wraps** – kept secret गोपनीय रखा हुआ
- **around the corner** – coming soon जल्द आने वाला
- **in high spirits** – cheerful and happy उत्साहित / प्रसन्नचित

8. C) **Hapless** (adjective) – Unlucky, unfortunate, ill-fated दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण

Synonym: **Unlucky** (adjective) – Unfortunate, ill-fated, luckless, jinxed, doomed दुर्भाग्यशाली

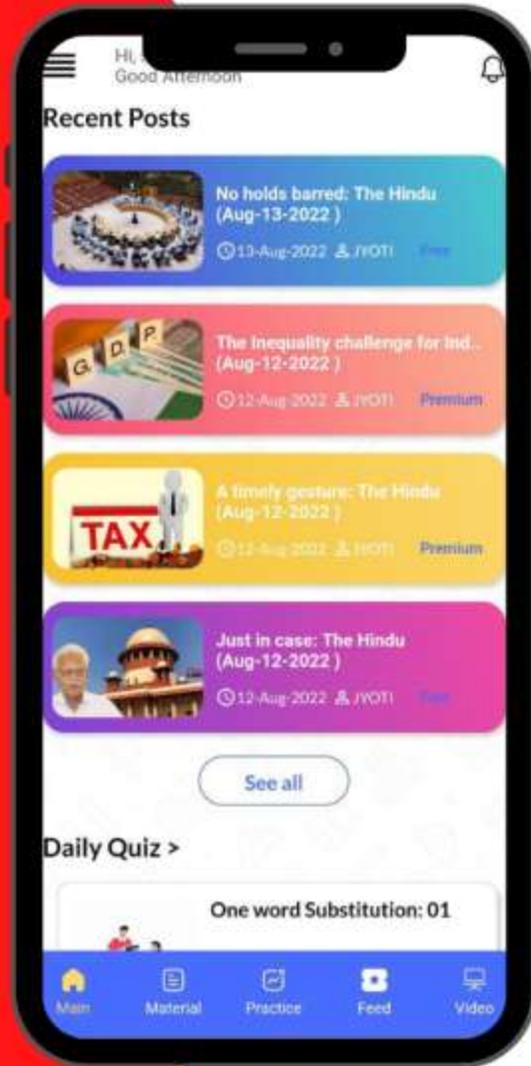
- **Fortunate** (adjective) – Lucky, blessed, successful भाग्यशाली
- **Lucky** (adjective) – Fortunate, blessed, favored भाग्यवान
- **Successful** (adjective) – Achieving desired results, prosperous सफल

9. C) **in stride** – to accept something calmly and deal with it without getting upset शांत मन से स्वीकार करना
- **at face value** – to take something as it appears सतही रूप से मान लेना
 - **with a grain of salt** – to not fully believe something संदेह के साथ मानना
 - **out of context** – without the surrounding circumstances संदर्भ से हटकर
10. C) **Highlighted** वाक्य में 'saw' का अर्थ है – देखना (to see) का भूतकाल। विकल्प C में भी 'saw' का अर्थ देखा है – सुंदर सूर्यास्त देखा। इसलिए यह same meaning का सही उदाहरण है।
In the highlighted sentence, 'saw' is the past tense of see.
Option C also uses 'saw' to mean to see in the past.
Thus, option C matches the same meaning.
11. C) The correctly spelt word is **Bureaucrat** which means “an official in a government department” सरकारी अधिकारी।
12. C) The correctly spelt word is **Irresistible** which means “too attractive or strong to refuse or resist” अति आकर्षक, जिसका विरोध न किया जा सके।
13. A) **As thick as thieves** (Idiom) -Very close and loyal / बहुत घनिष्ठ और वफ़ादार / बहुत करीबी दोस्त
14. B) **Ornithologist** (noun) – a person who studies birds पक्षी-विज्ञानी
- **Biologist** (noun) – a person who studies living organisms जीव-विज्ञानी
 - **Ecologist** (noun) – a person who studies relationships between organisms and their environment पर्यावरण-विज्ञानी
 - **Zoologist** (noun) – a person who studies animals प्राणी-विज्ञानी
15. C) Q, S, P, R
Confident in their strategy to blockade the enemy port, the admiral gave the order for the ships to proceed Without firing a shot, they were to cut off supplies and compel a surrender. But the fleet was caught off guard as a sudden, strong storm blew in from the sea. The conflict became a desperate struggle for survival due to the unanticipated weather.
Q paragraph की शुरुआत करता है; इसमें main subject (noun: admiral) और main action (verb: gave the order) आता है, जो plan और decision को introduce करता है।
S plan का purpose बताता है; verbs cut off और compel action को explain करते हैं, और pronoun they Q में बताए गए ships को refer करता है।
P problem को दिखाता है; noun storm नई situation लाता है, और verb phrase was caught off guard sudden difficulty को express करता है।
R final result बताता है; noun conflict पूरी situation को sum up करता है, और adjective desperate seriousness को show करता है।
- Q starts the paragraph; it introduces the main subject (noun: admiral) and the main action (verb: gave the order), establishing the plan and decision.
 - S explains the purpose of the plan; verbs cut off and compel describe the intended action, and the pronoun they refers back to the ships mentioned in Q.
 - P presents the problem; the noun storm introduces the unexpected situation, and the verb phrase was caught off guard shows sudden difficulty.
 - R gives the outcome; the noun conflict summarizes the situation, and the adjective desperate highlights the severity.

16. A) **Felicity** (noun) – Happiness, bliss, joy, delight सुख, आनंद
 Antonym: **Misery** (noun) – Suffering, distress, unhappiness, agony, torment दुःख, कष्ट
- **Despair** (noun) – Hopelessness, discouragement निराशा
 - **Sorrow** (noun) – Sadness, grief, unhappiness शोक, दुख
 - **Anger** (noun) – Rage, fury, resentment क्रोध
17. D) **Repudiate** (verb) – Reject, deny, refuse to accept, disown अस्वीकार करना / नकारना
 Antonym: **Accept** (verb) – Receive, agree, approve, consent, embrace स्वीकार करना
- **Reject** (verb) – Refuse, decline, dismiss अस्वीकार करना
 - **Disown** (verb) – Deny responsibility or connection त्याग देना
 - **Deny** (verb) – Refuse to admit, contradict इनकार करना
18. A) **Archive** (noun) – a place where records and historical documents are stored अभिलेखागार / अभिलेख भंडार
- **Library** (noun) – a place where books are kept पुस्तकालय
 - **Storage** (noun) – the action or method of storing things भंडारण
 - **Depository** (noun) – a place where objects are deposited for safekeeping भंडार / कोषागार
19. B) believes' के बदले '**believe**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि who के बाद verb उसी antecedent के अनुसार लगता है जो plural (people) है; इसलिए verb भी plural यानी believe होगा; जैसे—
 She is one of the players who play well.
- 'believe' will be used instead of 'believes' because the verb after who agrees with its antecedent people, which is plural, therefore the verb must also be plural; Like—
 She is one of the players who play well.
20. A) 'should be able to maintain or improve profit margin' के बदले '**should be able to maintain or improve profit margins**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात अनेक sellers के profit margins की हो रही है, इसलिए margin plural में होना चाहिए; जैसे— Firms try to improve their profit margins every year.
- 'should be able to maintain or improve profit margins' will be used instead of the highlighted part because the reference is to the multiple sellers' profit margins, so the noun should be in plural form; Like— Firms try to improve their profit margins every year.
21. B) [**consume**] सही है क्योंकि मीडिया (न्यूज़, टीवी, इंटरनेट, तस्वीरें) को देखने, पढ़ने या इस्तेमाल करने के लिए "consume" शब्द का इस्तेमाल होता है। partake का मतलब किसी चीज़ में हिस्सा लेना होता है, और इसके साथ अक्सर 'in' या 'of' आता है। indulge का मतलब मज़े के लिए किसी काम में लिप्त होना होता है (इसके साथ भी 'in' आता है)। peruse का मतलब किसी लेख या किताब को बहुत ध्यान से पढ़ना होता है, जो पूरे 'visual media' के लिए सही नहीं है।
- [consume] is correct because in the context of modern media (like news, social media, and digital images), we use the verb "consume" to describe the act of taking in, watching, or using information. partake usually requires the preposition "in" or "of" (to partake in an activity). indulge also typically requires the preposition "in" (to indulge in something for pleasure). peruse means to read or examine a text carefully, which is too specific and does not apply broadly to all "visual media."

22. D) [**uproar**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब भारी हंगामा या जनता का तीव्र गुस्सा (public outrage) होता है। जब किसी टूल का गलत इस्तेमाल होता है, तो लोग जो ज़ोरदार विरोध करते हैं, उसे uproar कहते हैं। melancholy का मतलब गहरी उदासी (sadness) होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है क्योंकि ऐसे मामलों में लोग उदास नहीं, बल्कि गुस्से में हंगामा करते हैं। dissent का मतलब असहमति या अलग राय होना होता है। grievance का मतलब कोई व्यक्तिगत शिकायत या नाराज़गी होता है, जो बड़े पैमाने के हंगामे को सही से नहीं दर्शाता।
- [uproar] is correct because it means a loud and impassioned noise or disturbance, perfectly describing the widespread public outrage and intense negative reaction from people online when the chatbot was misused. melancholy is a feeling of pensive, deep sadness, which does not fit the angry and vocal public reaction to a scandal. dissent means holding or expressing opinions that go against official policy, which is usually a formal disagreement rather than a public outcry. grievance is a formal complaint or a personal feeling of resentment, which doesn't capture the massive, sudden public noise that "uproar" does.
23. D) [**into**] सही है क्योंकि इंग्लिश ग्रामर के तय नियम के अनुसार "investigation" (जांच) के साथ हमेशा "into" preposition का इस्तेमाल होता है। यह बताता है कि जांच किस विषय पर या किस चीज़ की गहराई में हो रही है। in (में), with (के साथ), और by (के द्वारा) यहाँ ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत हैं।
- [into] is correct because of a fixed word pairing in English grammar: the noun "investigation" is almost always followed by the preposition "into" when you are stating the subject or target being investigated. in, with, and by do not correctly link the act of investigating to the thing being examined.
24. A) [**fakery**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ को नकली बनाना या धोखा देना (making fake things) होता है। पैराग्राफ में भी आगे "image fakery" का ज़िक्र है, इसलिए यहाँ यही शब्द आएगा। hypocrisy का मतलब पाखंड या दोगलापन होता है। delusion का मतलब भ्रम या गलतफहमी (दिमागी सोच) होता है। imitation का मतलब नकल करना होता है, लेकिन इसमें धोखे (deception) का वह भाव नहीं है जो 'fakery' में होता है।
- [fakery] is correct because it is a noun that directly refers to the act of making something fake or counterfeit. This perfectly matches the passage's theme of altering images. Furthermore, the very next sentence explicitly uses the phrase "image fakery," giving you a massive clue. hypocrisy is claiming to have moral standards but behaving differently. delusion is a false belief or judgment about external reality, mostly related to a mental state. imitation means copying something, but it lacks the strong, deceptive, malicious meaning of creating a completely false image like "fakery" does.
25. D) [**pertinent**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी विषय से बिल्कुल जुड़ा हुआ या प्रासंगिक (highly relevant) होता है। जब नकली तस्वीरों की बात हो रही हो, तो यह सवाल पूछना बहुत ही प्रासंगिक (pertinent) है कि क्या तस्वीरों ने कभी सच बोला है? contingent का मतलब किसी और चीज़ या परिस्थिति पर निर्भर होना होता है। proportional का मतलब अनुपात में या बराबर मात्रा में होना होता है। subjective का मतलब व्यक्तिगत राय या भावनाओं पर आधारित होना होता है, जो यहाँ फिट नहीं बैठता।
- [pertinent] is correct because it is an adjective meaning highly relevant or applicable to a particular matter. Asking if photographs have ever told the truth is a highly relevant (pertinent) question when discussing the history of manipulated images. contingent means depending on certain circumstances or occurring by chance. proportional means

corresponding in size or amount to something else. subjective means based on or influenced by personal feelings or opinions, rather than hard facts.



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