

## Turning point: On the U.S. and India's independent foreign policy

The U.S. is **slicing away** at India's ability to **pursue** an independent foreign policy

The U.S. has allowed its **waiver** of **sanctions** on Iran's Chabahar port to **lapse** on Sunday (April 26), indicating that India is now **at a crossroads** on how to proceed with the port as a key connectivity initiative. **Barring** a **belated** waiver renewal, New Delhi must choose between accepting sanctions and **abandoning** its \$620 million investment, or proceeding with the project and risk strict U.S. sanctions. India's "start-stop" **engagement** with Iran on developing a facility at the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar **goes** back **decades**, and Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee signed an MoU for the project in 2003. However, U.S. **pressure** on India to postpone plans **aimed** at stopping Iran's nuclear programme **led to** construction delays. The Manmohan Singh government was unable to make much progress either, but continued work on the Zaranj-Delaram highway to connect the Iran-Afghanistan border crossing to Kabul. After the 2015 JCPOA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government signed a **trilateral** agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to advance trade and **aid** via Chabahar port and a highway into Afghanistan. Chabahar's importance grew as **ties** with Pakistan **deteriorated** and it restricted India's **transit** access to Afghanistan. However, fate **intervened** again as U.S. President Donald Trump **walked out** of the JCPOA, and began a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran by re-implementing all sanctions. While India was forced by the U.S. to **give up** Iranian oil imports, and plans for the rail line, the U.S. built a "**carve-out**" for Chabahar, allowing India to send wheat and medical supplies to Afghanistan. **That** carve-out **is** now at an end, with the Trump administration giving Delhi until this month to "**wind-down**" its operations. Since November 2025, India has withdrawn personnel from Chabahar, prepaid its \$120 million investment commitment, and is considering transferring its **stake** in the Shahid Beheshti Terminal to an Iranian company, with the option of returning later.

The West Asia war has **complicated** the situation, and it is unclear when, if ever, India will be able to re-engage with Iran or rebuild Chabahar after the conflict. Temporarily dropping the project may seem **pragmatic**. However, Chabahar is just one of several India's independent decisions that the U.S. has **thwarted**; there have been **diktats** to stop buying oil from Iran, Venezuela, and Russia. Mr. Trump has threatened sanctions on all trade with Iran, and on BRICS grouping members; the U.S.'s seemingly **insatiable** demands may also extend to India's engagement with other countries. Giving in on Chabahar will not just end India's connectivity plans with Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan. It will damage its **claims** of sovereign **autonomy**, and slice away its ability to pursue an independent foreign policy.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Slice away** (phrasal verb) - to gradually reduce or remove the effectiveness or power of something धीरे-धीरे कम करना
2. **Pursue** (verb) - follow, undertake, conduct, prosecute, chase अनुसरण करना
3. **Waiver** (noun) - renunciation, surrender, abdication, remission, dispensation छूट/अधित्यजन
4. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, deterrent, embargo, restriction, punitive measure प्रतिबंध
5. **Lapse** (verb) - expire, terminate, cease, conclude, end समाप्त होना
6. **At a crossroads** (phrase) - at a point where a very important decision must be made चौराहे पर/महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ पर
7. **Barring** (preposition) - excluding, excepting, omitting शिवाय/को छोड़कर
8. **Belated** (adjective) - tardy, delayed, overdue, late, delinquent विलंबित
9. **Abandon** (verb) - desert, forsake, renounce, relinquish, discard त्याग देना/छोड़ना
10. **Decade** (noun) - decennium, decennary, ten-year period, ten, decad दशक
11. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in or cause something to happen कारण बनना
12. **Trilateral** (adjective) - tripartite, three-sided, ternary, threefold, triple त्रिपक्षीय
13. **Aid** (noun) - assistance, relief, succor, subsidy, support सहायता/मदद
14. **Ties** (noun) - bonds, relations, connections, links, affiliations संबंध
15. **Deteriorate** (verb) - worsen, decline, degenerate, decay, retrogress बिगड़ना
16. **Transit** (noun) - passage, transport, conveyance, movement, transfer पारगमन
17. **Intervene** (verb) - interfere, mediate, intercede, intrude, arbitrate हस्तक्षेप करना
18. **Walk out** (phrasal verb) - to suddenly leave or stop being part of an agreement बाहर निकलना/छोड़ देना
19. **Give up** (phrasal verb) - to stop doing or having something; to sacrifice छोड़ देना/त्यागना
20. **Carve-out** (noun) - a specific exception or exemption within a larger rule or law विशेष छूट
21. **Wind-down** (phrasal verb) - to gradually bring an activity or operation to an end धीरे-धीरे समाप्त करना
22. **Stake** (noun) - share, interest, investment, involvement, portion हिस्सेदारी
23. **Complicate** (verb) - involve, entangle, muddle, confound, embroil जटिल बनाना
24. **Pragmatic** (adjective) - practical, realistic, functional, utilitarian, sensible व्यावहारिक
25. **Thwart** (verb) - frustrate, baffle, foil, obstruct, impede विफल करना/रोकना
26. **Diktat** (noun) - decree, edict, mandate, command, fiat आदेश/तानाशाही हुक्म

27. **Insatiable** (adjective) - unquenchable, voracious, gluttonous, rapacious, bottomless जिसे संतुष्ट न किया जा सके

28. **Claim** (noun) - assertion, contention, affirmation, pretension, declaration दावा

29. **Autonomy** (noun) - the ability or right to make your own decisions and govern yourself स्वायत्तता

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The U.S. has allowed its sanctions waiver on Iran's Chabahar port to lapse, creating a major dilemma for India.
2. India must now choose between continuing the project and risking sanctions or withdrawing and losing its investment.
3. India has invested about \$620 million in the strategically important Chabahar port.
4. The project has been central to India's connectivity plans with Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
5. India's engagement with Chabahar dates back to a 2003 agreement under Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee.
6. U.S. pressure over Iran's nuclear programme has repeatedly delayed the project.
7. Progress accelerated after the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), with India signing a trilateral pact with Iran and Afghanistan.
8. However, renewed U.S. sanctions under Donald Trump disrupted India's plans again.
9. India had already been forced to stop importing oil from Iran under U.S. pressure.
10. Earlier, a limited U.S. exemption allowed India to use Chabahar for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.
11. With the waiver now ended, India is considering transferring its stake temporarily to an Iranian entity.
12. The ongoing conflict in West Asia further complicates India's ability to continue or revive the project.
13. The editorial argues that U.S. actions are increasingly constraining India's independent foreign policy choices.
14. Giving up Chabahar would weaken India's regional connectivity and strategic autonomy.
15. Continued U.S. pressure on India's trade with countries like Iran, Russia, and Venezuela signals a broader erosion of India's policy independence.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary diplomatic dilemma facing the Indian government regarding the Chabahar port project?** [Editorial page]
  - A. Deciding if the financial burden of the port outweighs the potential for regional trade and future economic growth in Central Asia.
  - B. Balancing the pursuit of strategic maritime infrastructure against the threat of restrictive economic measures from a major global power.
  - C. Determining if the current Iranian administration remains a viable partner for long-term infrastructure projects given the regional wars.
  - D. Choosing between the development of the Shahid Beheshti terminal and the completion of the railway lines through the Afghan border.
2. **In the context of the passage, which phrase best replaces "at a crossroads" without changing the grammatical or contextual meaning?**
  - A. Occupying a position of certainty regarding its future geopolitical strategy and its regional economic partnerships.
  - B. Reaching a critical juncture where a decisive choice must be made between two significantly different courses of action.
  - C. Facing a minor administrative delay that can be easily resolved through standard diplomatic channels and bilateral talks.
  - D. Standing at the pinnacle of international trade success despite the various obstacles presented by global military conflicts.
3. **How has the shifting nature of U.S. foreign policy historically influenced India's involvement with the Chabahar terminal?**
  - A. Global shifts in energy requirements led to a pivot away from Iranian oil, making the port a secondary priority for Indian officials.
  - B. The transition from the JCPOA to "maximum pressure" forced India to abandon its highway projects while maintaining its oil imports.
  - C. Fluctuating levels of American diplomatic pressure and sanctions have dictated the pace and scale of India's operational engagement.
  - D. Permanent American opposition to the BRICS grouping has effectively halted all Indian investments in the Middle Eastern trade routes.
4. **According to the passage, why did the strategic value of Chabahar increase despite the persistent threat of international sanctions?**
  - A. The terminal became the only viable alternative for energy imports after the United States restricted trade with Russia and Venezuela.
  - B. Rapid industrialization in Central Asia created an urgent demand for Indian medical supplies and agricultural goods like wheat.
  - C. The trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan guaranteed that India would have exclusive rights to the Zaranj-Delaram highway.
  - D. Hostile relations with a neighboring state blocked traditional land routes, making the port vital for reaching landlocked territories.
5. **What broader implication does the author suggest would result from India's potential withdrawal from the Chabahar project?**

- A. It would lead to a collapse of the BRICS alliance and India's standing among emerging economic superpowers.
- B. It would signify a surrender of independent decision-making and a submission to external mandates regarding global partnerships.
- C. It would result in the seizure of the Shahid Beheshti terminal by Iranian entities, causing a massive financial loss.
- D. It would force India to rely on Russian energy corridors, thereby increasing its vulnerability to future European sanctions.
6. **Direction: The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them (1, 2, 3, 4) in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
- A. This business has since evolved into Anta, a sportswear powerhouse that owns international brands like Arc'teryx and recently acquired a stake in Puma.
- B. In the late 1980s, Ding Shizhong, a determined high school dropout, moved to Beijing to sell 600 pairs of shoes made in a relative's factory.
- C. With over 10,000 shops in China and high-profile sponsorships, the company now aims to compete globally with giants like Nike and Adidas.
- D. The earnings from this initial venture funded his first workshop, where he transitioned from a small-scale entrepreneur to a footwear manufacturer.
- A. 2-1-4-3
- B. 2-4-1-3
- C. 1-2-4-3
- D. 2-4-3-1
7. **Which of the following idioms given in the alternatives has the meaning?**  
A new and unfamiliar situation that a person or organization has no experience with, potentially involving unknown or dangerous aspects.
- A. Back waters
- B. Uncharted waters
- C. Plow water
- D. Charted waters
8. **Which of the following idioms given in the alternatives has the meaning?**  
A disproportionate reaction of anger, concern, or displeasure over some minor or trivial matter.
- A. A tempest in a teapot
- B. A port in a storm
- C. Kick up a fuss
- D. Go down a storm
9. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**  
Think on one's feet.
- A. To try or start something
- B. To become comfortable with a particular situation
- C. To be able to think clearly in times of stress, especially when forming a solution to a pressing problem
- D. To gain confidence in a new job

10. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
- A. Congrigation
  - B. Congregation
  - C. Congragation
  - D. Congreagation
11. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "melancholy".**
- A. Cheerful
  - B. Sad
  - C. Excited
  - D. Angry
12. **What is the synonym of "foe"?**
- A. Ally
  - B. Friend
  - C. Enemy
  - D. Guest
13. **There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt. Choose the option with the misspelt word.**
- The president emphasised the need for reconciliation, mutual trust, and concensus on constitutional reforms.
- A. emphasised
  - B. reconciliation
  - C. concensus
  - D. constitutional
14. **Choose the misspelt word from the given options.**
- A. Disastrous
  - B. Pungent
  - C. Benign
  - D. Restuarant
15. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "antique".**
- A. Vintage
  - B. Modern
  - C. Classic
  - D. Ancient
16. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Forever.**
- A. Eternally
  - B. Temporarily
  - C. Always
  - D. Perpetually
17. **Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.**
- The teacher advised him to \_\_\_\_\_ his mistakes instead of hiding them.
- A. admit
  - B. admet
  - C. omit
  - D. admin

**18. Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**

A person who lives alone.

- A. Monk
- B. Saint
- C. Recluse
- D. Bachelor

**19. Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**

Shantanu succeeded \_\_\_\_\_ his father's throne.

- A. by
- B. about
- C. to
- D. in

**20. Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**

The killing of one's son or daughter.

- A. Filicide
- B. Fratricide
- C. Matricide
- D. Parricide

**Comprehension**

The vast Pacific Ocean and the islands dotted within it produce more than half of the world's tuna. Among the islands are 33 scattered across the centre that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the country of Kiribati. Here more than 70% of government revenues (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from selling tuna fishing licenses to foreign fleets - the highest proportion of any nation. Kiribati has a tiny land mass. When all the islands are combined it is about the size of New York City. However, it has a huge (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of territorial waters, otherwise known as its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Totalling more than 3.4 million sq km, the EEZ is spread across three separate parts, surrounding the country's three groups of islands - Gilbert, Phoenix and Line. Collectively, this area is bigger than India and offers (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to an ocean (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with marine life, including skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

**21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 1.**

- A. exclude
- B. encompass
- C. surpass
- D. neglect

**22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 2.**

- A. come
- B. dwindle
- C. evaporate
- D. fluctuate

**23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 3.**

- A. swathe
- B. fragment
- C. speck

D. margin

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 4.**

A. denial

B. access

C. barrier

D. approach

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 5.**

A. vacant

B. abundant

C. scarce

D. meager

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

- B) Balancing the pursuit of strategic maritime infrastructure against the threat of restrictive economic measures from a major global power.**  
 Option B: Claims the dilemma is infrastructure goals vs. foreign sanctions. / Passage: Confirms India must choose between the \$620M project and U.S. pressure. (Correct)  
 Option A: Claims the dilemma is a cost-benefit financial analysis. / Passage: Says the dilemma is a choice between project investment and U.S. sanctions. (Incorrect)  
 Option C: Claims the dilemma is Iran's reliability as a partner during war. / Passage: Focuses on the U.S. "maximum pressure" campaign as the primary obstacle. (Incorrect)  
 Option D: Claims the dilemma is choosing between the port and the railway. / Passage: Notes the railway was already dropped; the port is the current "crossroads." (Incorrect)
- B) Reaching a critical juncture where a decisive choice must be made between two significantly different courses of action.**  
 Option B: Describes a critical turning point requiring a big decision. / Passage: Matches the context of India needing to choose between sanctions or abandonment. (Correct)
- C) Fluctuating levels of American diplomatic pressure and sanctions have dictated the pace and scale of India's operational engagement.**  
 Option C: Claims U.S. pressure levels controlled the project's speed. / Passage: Details a "start-stop" history synced with U.S. nuclear deals and sanctions. (Correct)  
 Option A: Claims energy trends made the port less important. / Passage: States the importance grew as land access through Pakistan was restricted. (Incorrect)  
 Option B: Claims India kept oil imports but left the highway. / Passage: States India was forced to give up oil imports but continued the highway work. (Incorrect)  
 Option D: Claims anti-BRICS policy stopped all Middle East trade. / Passage: Mentions BRICS as a recent target, not the historical cause for the port's delays. (Incorrect)
- D) Hostile relations with a neighboring state blocked traditional land routes, making the port vital for reaching landlocked territories.**  
 Option D: Claims a neighbor (Pakistan) blocked land access to Afghanistan. / Passage: Explicitly links the port's value to Pakistan's transit restrictions. (Correct)  
 Option A: Claims the port replaced Russian and Venezuelan oil. / Passage: Says U.S. "diktats" stopped oil from all three, making them separate problems. (Incorrect)  
 Option C: Claims the agreement gave India "exclusive rights." / Passage: Mentions the agreement was to "advance trade and aid," not provide legal exclusivity. (Incorrect)  
 Option B: Claims industrial growth created the need for wheat/medicine. / Passage: Mentions these items were only permitted because of a U.S. "carve-out." (Incorrect)
- B) It would signify a surrender of independent decision-making and a submission to external mandates regarding global partnerships.**  
 Option B: Claims it shows a loss of independent foreign policy. / Passage: Argues that giving in would "slice away" India's ability to act independently. (Correct)

Option A: Claims it would cause the collapse of BRICS. / Passage: Suggests it only "damages" India's specific claims of autonomy. (Incorrect)

Option C: Claims the terminal would be seized. / Passage: Mentions a transfer of stake is being considered with an "option of returning." (Incorrect)

Option D: Claims it forces reliance on Russia. / Passage: Mentions Russia as another country the U.S. wants India to stop trading with. (Incorrect)

6. B) 2-4-1-3

Sentence 2, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरी कहानी की शुरुआत और मुख्य पात्र (Ding Shizhong) की पहचान करता है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक factual ground प्रदान करता है कि कैसे 1980 के दशक में 600 जोड़ी जूतों के साथ यह सफर शुरू हुआ।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" पेश करता है। यह पिछले वाक्य में बेचे गए जूतों से हुई कमाई के इस्तेमाल को समझाता है, जिससे डिंग ने अपनी पहली वर्कशॉप खोली। यह एक उद्यमी (entrepreneur) के रूप में उनके विकास का big test है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस छोटी वर्कशॉप के विस्तार (elaboration) को दिखाता है। यह specific detail देता है कि कैसे वह छोटी इकाई 'Anta' जैसी बड़ी कंपनी बनी, जिसने Arc'teryx और Puma जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय ब्रांडों में हिस्सेदारी खरीदी।

Sentence 3, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक conclusion (निष्कर्ष) की ओर ले जाता है। कंपनी की वर्तमान ताकत (10,000 दुकानें) बताकर, यह डिंग के वैश्विक लक्ष्य (Nike और Adidas से मुकाबला) के साथ बात को खत्म करता है।

Sentence 2 comes at the beginning because it identifies the origin of the story and the main character, Ding Shizhong. It provides the essential factual ground by establishing the starting point of the business in the late 1980s with 600 pairs of shoes.

Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because it introduces the "Why" or the immediate progression. It explains how the earnings from the initial shoe sales funded his first workshop, serving as a critical test of his transition from a salesman to a manufacturer.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it provides an elaboration on the growth of that workshop. It adds specific details regarding the evolution of the brand 'Anta' and its acquisition of global names like Arc'teryx and Puma.

Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 because it serves as the logical conclusion. After detailing the growth, it wraps up the narrative by highlighting Anta's current market dominance and its ultimate goal to challenge global giants like Nike and Adidas.

7. B) Uncharted waters (idiom) – A new and unfamiliar situation with unknown or risky aspects अनजानी स्थिति

8. A) **A tempest in a teapot** (idiom) – A disproportionate reaction over a trivial matter छोटी बात पर बड़ा हंगामा

9. C) **Think on one's feet** (idiom) – To think clearly and respond quickly in a difficult or stressful situation तुरंत और समझदारी से सोचना

10. B) The correct spelling of 'Congrigration / Congragation / Congreagation' is '**Congregation**', which means "a group of people gathered together, especially for religious purposes" सभा, जमाव।

11. B) **Melancholy** (adjective/noun) – Sad, gloomy, sorrowful, depressed, despondent उदास / विषादपूर्ण

- Synonym: **Sad** (adjective) – Unhappy, sorrowful, gloomy, depressed, downcast उदास
- **Cheerful** (adjective) – Happy, joyful, lively प्रसन्न
  - **Excited** (adjective) – Enthusiastic, thrilled, eager उत्साहित
  - **Angry** (adjective) – Mad, furious, irritated क्रोधित
12. C) **Foe** (noun) – Enemy, opponent, adversary, rival, antagonist शत्रु  
Synonym: **Enemy** (noun) – Foe, opponent, rival, adversary, antagonist दुश्मन
- **Ally** (noun) – Friend, supporter, partner सहयोगी
  - **Friend** (noun) – Companion, ally, well-wisher मित्र
  - **Guest** (noun) – Visitor, invitee, attendee अतिथि
13. C) The correct spelling of 'concensus' is '**consensus**', which means "general agreement among a group" सर्वसम्मति, आम सहमति।
14. D) The correct spelling of 'Restuarant' is 'Restaurant', which means "a place where meals are prepared and served" भोजनालय, रेस्तरां।
15. B) **Antique** (adjective/noun) – Old, ancient, vintage, aged, historical प्राचीन / पुराना  
Antonym: **Modern** (adjective) – New, contemporary, current, recent, up-to-date आधुनिक
- **Vintage** (adjective) – Old, classic, antique पुराना
  - **Classic** (adjective) – Timeless, traditional, antique क्लासिक / पुराना
  - **Ancient** (adjective) – Very old, antique, archaic प्राचीन
16. B) **Forever** (adverb) – Always, eternally, perpetually, endlessly हमेशा / सदा  
Antonym: **Temporarily** (adverb) – For a short time, briefly, momentarily, not permanently अस्थायी रूप से
- **Eternally** (adverb) – Forever, always, endlessly सदा
  - **Always** (adverb) – Forever, constantly, continually हमेशा
  - **Perpetually** (adverb) – Forever, continuously, endlessly निरंतर
17. A) **Admit'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence का अर्थ है कि शिक्षक ने उसे अपनी गलतियों को स्वीकार करने की सलाह दी, न कि उन्हें छिपाने की। यहाँ "admit his mistakes" एक सही और प्रचलित expression है, जिसका अर्थ होता है अपनी गलती मान लेना। इसलिए, "admit" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'Admit' should be used because the sentence suggests that the teacher advised him to accept his mistakes rather than conceal them. The phrase "admit his mistakes" is correct and commonly used, meaning to acknowledge one's errors. Thus, "admit" would be the most appropriate choice.
18. C) **Recluse** (noun) – A person who lives alone and avoids society एकांतप्रिय / एकांतवासी
- **Monk** (noun) – A man devoted to religious life सन्यासी
  - **Saint** (noun) – A very holy person संत
  - **Bachelor** (noun) – An unmarried man अविवाहित पुरुष
19. C) **To'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "succeed to" एक सही और प्रचलित phrase है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी पद, संपत्ति या सिंहासन को विरासत में प्राप्त करना। यहाँ sentence में Shantanu अपने पिता के सिंहासन को प्राप्त कर रहा है, इसलिए "succeeded to his father's throne" सही होगा।
- 'To' should be used because "succeed to" is the correct and commonly used phrase, meaning to inherit a position, property, or throne. Here, the sentence indicates that

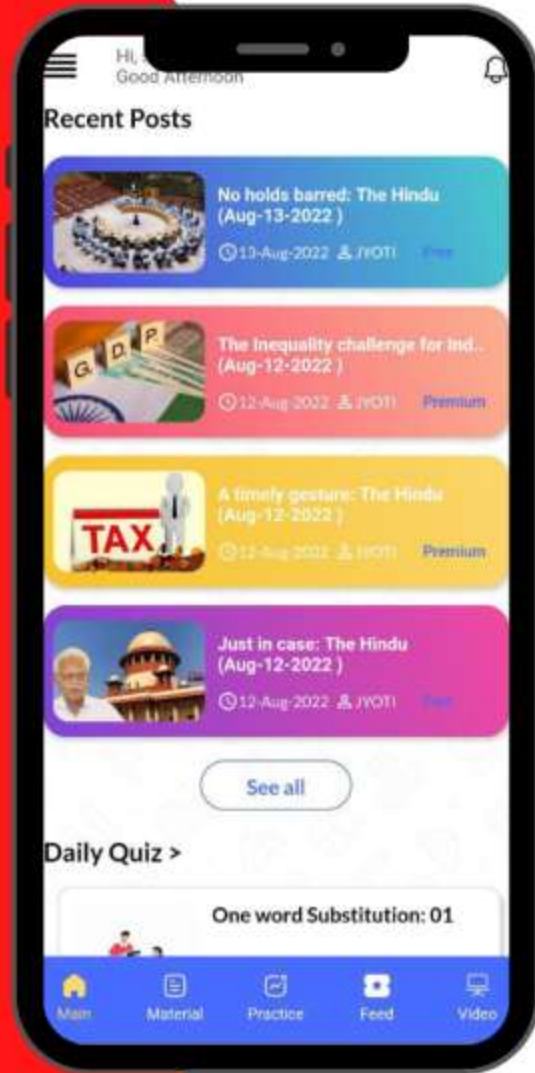
Shantanu inherited his father's throne. Thus, "to" would be the most appropriate choice.

20. A) **Filicide** (noun) – The killing of one's son or daughter संतान की हत्या
- **Fratricide** (noun) – The killing of one's brother भ्रातृहत्या
  - **Matricide** (noun) – The killing of one's mother मातृहत्या
  - **Parricide** (noun) – The killing of one's parent (father or mother) माता-पिता की हत्या
21. B) [**encompass**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब 'मिलकर बनाना' या 'चारों ओर से घेरना' होता है। 33 द्वीप एक साथ मिलकर किरिबाती देश को बनाते हैं। Exclude का मतलब बाहर निकालना होता है। Surpass का मतलब किसी से आगे निकल जाना होता है। Neglect का मतलब अनदेखा करना होता है।
- [**encompass**] is correct because it means to surround, enclose, or collectively make up/constitute a whole. The 33 scattered islands collectively form the country. Exclude means to keep out. Surpass means to exceed or be greater than someone else. Neglect means to fail to care for properly.
22. A) [**come**] सही है क्योंकि इसका सीधा सा मतलब है 'आना' (कमाई का आना)। "Revenues come from..." यह बताने का सबसे natural तरीका है कि पैसा कहाँ से आ रहा है। Dwindle का मतलब धीरे-धीरे कम होना या सिकुड़ना है। Fluctuate का मतलब ऊपर-नीचे होना (अस्थिर होना) है। Evaporate का मतलब पूरी तरह गायब हो जाना है। चूँकि सरकार अपनी 70% कमाई यहीं से कर रही है, तो नुकसान या अस्थिरता वाले शब्द यहाँ बिल्कुल गलत हैं।
- [**come**] is correct because it simply and naturally indicates the origin or source of the money. The phrase "revenues come from" is the most direct way to state how the government earns its income. Dwindle means to slowly decrease or shrink in size or amount. Fluctuate means to shift back and forth unpredictably. Evaporate means to fade away or disappear completely. Since the government is actively earning 70% of its money this way, a word implying loss, instability, or disappearance is entirely incorrect.
23. A) [**swathe**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब ज़मीन या पानी का एक बहुत बड़ा और चौड़ा हिस्सा (massive area) होता है (पैसेज में 3.4 million sq km की बात है)। Fragment (छोटा टुकड़ा), Speck (छोटा सा बिंदु/दाग), और Margin (किनारा) - ये तीनों ही बहुत छोटी चीज़ों को दर्शाते हैं, जबकि हमें 'huge' (विशाल) चीज़ के लिए शब्द चाहिए था।
- [**swathe**] is correct because it refers to a broad, massive strip or area of land/water, which perfectly aligns with the "huge" 3.4 million sq km measurement mentioned right after. Fragment (a small broken piece), speck (a tiny spot), and margin (a narrow edge/border) are all distractors that imply something very small, directly contradicting the word "huge" in the sentence.
24. B) [**access**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी जगह या संसाधन (resource) तक पहुँचने और उसे इस्तेमाल करने का अधिकार (right) होता है। दूसरे देश पैसे देकर यहाँ मछलियाँ पकड़ने का access लेते हैं। Denial का मतलब मनाही होता है। Barrier का मतलब रुकावट होता है। Approach का मतलब किसी के पास जाना होता है, लेकिन यह इस्तेमाल करने का 'अधिकार' नहीं देता।
- [**access**] is correct because it refers to the legal or physical right to enter, approach, and utilize a resource (in this case, foreign fleets paying for the right to fish in the EEZ). Denial is a refusal. Barrier is an obstacle preventing entry. Approach means moving

nearer to something, but it does not inherently give you the legal or physical right to use it like "access" does.

25. B) [abundant] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब 'प्रचुर मात्रा में' या 'बहुत अधिक' होता है। समंदर मछलियों (tuna) से भरा हुआ है। Vacant (खाली), Scarce (दुर्लभ/कमी), और Meager (बहुत थोड़ा) - ये तीनों ही कमी को दर्शाते हैं, जो यहाँ बिल्कुल गलत हैं क्योंकि पैसेज बता रहा है कि यहाँ दुनिया की आधी टूना मछली पाई जाती है।

- [abundant] is correct because it means existing in very large, plentiful quantities, matching the description of an ocean full of various types of tuna. Vacant (empty), scarce (rare/insufficient), and meager (lacking in quantity) all imply a lack or emptiness, which completely contradicts the context of producing "more than half of the world's tuna."



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