

Superpower **summit**: On the Trump visit to China

As the U.S. and China **renegotiate ties**, India must **reinforce** its **strategic autonomy**

As U.S. President Donald Trump left Beijing on Friday after two days of talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the world's two biggest powers appeared to have come to a temporary **truce**. How long it will last remains to be seen, **given** that the summit **concluded** without any **apparent breakthroughs** in the long list of differences, from trade to Taiwan, that have **strained** relations. Instead, both sides appear focused on **injecting** some stability into a relationship that has, **of late**, seen many **ups-and-downs**. Mr. Xi offered a new label for ties, **calling for** "a **constructive** relationship of strategic stability" for the remaining years of Mr. Trump's term and beyond. If both agree on the need for some stability, their priorities appear to **differ**. Mr. Xi told Mr. Trump that Taiwan was the most important issue in the relationship, which could **descend** into conflict if not properly managed. The U.S. **stance** on Taiwan **remains** unchanged, which includes **substantial** arms sales. How this **détente** will handle the Trump administration's next sale remains to be seen. For Mr. Trump, **getting** China to buy more American goods and relax controls on rare earths **is** key **metrics** of the health of ties. He said that Beijing had agreed to buy 200 Boeing aircraft, **step up** purchases of soyabean, and relax restrictions on U.S. beef exports – the "three Bs" he has **emphasised**. The U.S. has also allowed 10 Chinese firms to resume purchases of advanced Nvidia chips. Both sides have discussed **setting up** a Board of Trade to manage trade issues, including reducing tariffs on some Chinese goods, and a Board of Investment to **green light** Chinese investment in non-sensitive sectors.

These deals, if confirmed, may at most **lead to** a pause in a **bruising** trade war. However, the Beijing summit has also served as a reminder of the broader changing structural **dynamics** in relations between the world's two biggest powers. If the U.S. remains the **pre-eminent** military power today, it is the limits of its ability to command global influence that have **come into question** increasingly, all the more so after the Iran war. **China**, for its part, **has** made clear it is no longer interested in **biding its time** or hiding its global ambitions. As Mr. Xi **put it to** Mr. Trump, can China and the U.S. avoid the **Thucydides Trap**, of an **inevitable** conflict between the established power and the rising power, and create a new model of relations? This question holds **significance** for India and the rest of the world, which have to **navigate** this **rivalry**. **Standing up to** U.S. pressure, while managing difficult relations with an increasingly confident China, **will** be two key tests of India's diplomacy in the years to come. **Reinforcing** India's strategic autonomy and independence, rather than **diluting** it, **will** offer the best path forward.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Summit** (noun) - meeting, conference, assembly, conclave, parley शिखर सम्मेलन
2. **Renegotiate** (verb) - renegotiate, readdress, reconsider, revise, reexamine फिर से बातचीत करना
3. **Tie** (noun) - bond, relation, connection, links, association संबंध
4. **Reinforce** (verb) - strengthen, fortify, bolster, support, buttress सुदृढ़ करना / मजबूत करना
5. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, deliberate, planned, politic रणनीतिक
6. **Autonomy** (noun) - independence, sovereignty, self-governance, freedom, liberty स्वायत्तता
7. **Truce** (noun) - ceasefire, armistice, peace, respite युद्धविराम / अस्थायी शांति
8. **Given** (preposition) - considering or taking into account को देखते हुए
9. **Conclude** (verb) - finish, terminate, end, close, finalize समाप्त होना / निष्कर्ष निकालना
10. **Apparent** (adjective) - obvious, evident, visible, manifest, conspicuous स्पष्ट
11. **Breakthrough** (noun) - discovery, advance, development, success, find महत्वपूर्ण खोज / बड़ी सफलता
12. **Strain** (verb) - tax, stress, stretch, pressure, burden तनावपूर्ण बनाना
13. **Inject** (verb) - instill, introduce, infuse, insert, imbue समावेश करना / भीतर डालना
14. **Of late** (phrase) - recently or in the recent period of time हाल ही में
15. **Ups-and-downs** (noun) - fluctuations, vicissitudes, shifts, changes, instability उतार-चढ़ाव
16. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to publicly ask for something to happen or be done मांग करना / आवश्यकता होना
17. **Constructive** (adjective) - productive, useful, helpful, beneficial, practical रचनात्मक / सकारात्मक
18. **Differ** (verb) - diverge, vary, deviate, disagree, dissent भिन्न होना
19. **Descend** (verb) - sink, plunge, degenerate, deteriorate, slide गिरना / अवनति होना
20. **Stance** (noun) - position, posture, attitude, standpoint, outlook दृष्टिकोण / रुख
21. **Substantial** (adjective) - significant, considerable, sizable, meaningful, solid पर्याप्त / महत्वपूर्ण
22. **Détente** (noun) - easing, relaxation, appeasement, pacification, conciliation देशों के बीच तनाव में कमी
23. **Metric** (noun) - measure, standard, gauge, criterion, benchmark मापदंड
24. **Step up** (phrasal verb) - to increase the amount, speed, or intensity of something बढ़ाना / तेज़ करना
25. **Emphasise** (verb) - stress, highlight, underline, accent, reinforce ज़ोर देना

26. **Green light** (phrase) - permission to proceed with a project or action अनुमति देना / हरी झंडी दिखाना
27. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to cause something to happen or exist परिणाम होना / कारण बनना
28. **Bruising** (adjective) - harsh, damaging, grueling, severe, punishing नुकसानदेह / कष्टप्रद
29. **Dynamics** (noun) - forces, mechanics, factors, drivers, interactions गतिशीलता / प्रेरक शक्तियां
30. **Pre-eminent** (adjective) - foremost, supreme, leading, dominant, paramount सर्वोपरि / सर्वश्रेष्ठ
31. **Come into question** (phrase) - to be doubted or to become uncertain संदेह के घेरे में आना
32. **Bide your time** (phrase) - to wait quietly for a good opportunity to do something सही समय का इंतज़ार करना
33. **Put it to** (phrasal verb) - to express or present a statement or question to someone किसी के सामने बात रखना
34. **Thucydides Trap** (noun) - a severe structural stress when a rising power challenges an established power बढ़ते और स्थापित देश के बीच अपरिहार्य युद्ध की स्थिति
35. **Inevitable** (adjective) - unavoidable, inescapable, certain, fated, sure अपरिहार्य / निश्चित
36. **Significance** (noun) - importance, consequence, weight, moment, relevance महत्व
37. **Navigate** (verb) - steer, guide, maneuver, handle, negotiate रास्ता खोजना / पार पाना
38. **Rivalry** (noun) - competition, contention, opposition, conflict, feud प्रतिद्वंद्विता
39. **Stand up to** (phrasal verb) - to defend oneself against a powerful person or country डटकर सामना करना / विरोध करना
40. **Dilute** (verb) - weaken, diminish, thin, attenuate, reduce कमजोर करना / धीमा करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Donald Trump visited China for talks with Xi Jinping amid strained U.S.-China relations.
2. The summit ended with a temporary easing of tensions but without major breakthroughs.
3. Key disputes remain unresolved, including trade issues and the Taiwan question.
4. Both countries appear interested in stabilising relations after recent volatility.
5. Xi Jinping proposed building a “constructive relationship of strategic stability” with the U.S.
6. China considers Taiwan the most sensitive and potentially dangerous issue in bilateral relations.
7. The U.S. position on Taiwan, including arms sales to the island, remains unchanged.
8. Trump focused mainly on economic outcomes such as increasing Chinese purchases of U.S. goods.
9. China reportedly agreed to buy Boeing aircraft, soybeans, and increase U.S. beef imports.
10. The U.S. also eased restrictions on some Chinese firms purchasing advanced Nvidia chips.
11. Both sides discussed creating trade and investment boards to manage disputes and encourage cooperation.
12. These measures may only temporarily pause the ongoing trade conflict between the two powers.
13. The summit reflects broader structural changes in global power dynamics between the U.S. and China.
14. China is increasingly assertive globally, while U.S. dominance faces growing limitations.
15. For India, the evolving rivalry highlights the importance of maintaining strategic autonomy and balancing ties with both powers.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?** [Editorial Page]
- I. The recent summit in Beijing resulted in a definitive resolution of long-standing geopolitical disputes such as the status of Taiwan.
 - II. While both nations seek "strategic stability," their primary objectives are divergent, with China prioritizing territorial concerns and the U.S. focusing on economic concessions.
 - III. The global influence of the United States has faced increasing scrutiny and questioning, particularly in the aftermath of the Iran war.
- A. I and II only
B. II and III only
C. I and III only
D. III only
2. **Which of the following best describes the author's tone in the passage?**
- A. Prescriptive and dogmatic
B. Cynical and dismissive
C. Optimistic and celebratory
D. Analytical and cautionary
3. **Which of the following statements can't be inferred from the above passage?**
- a. The recent transactional concessions made by the U.S. indicate that its geopolitical influence has been restored to its pre-Iran war status, ensuring command over global affairs.
 - b. China's agreement to the "three Bs" trade model serves as evidence that it has resumed its historical stance of concealing global ambitions to maintain regional stability.
- A. Only a
B. Only b
C. Both a and b
D. None of a and b
4. **In the clause:**
"...calling for 'a constructive relationship of strategic stability',"
What grammatical structure is "calling" a part of?
- A. A relative clause
B. A passive voice
C. A participial phrase
D. A finite verb in present tense
5. **What type of clause is used in the sentence:**
"...both sides appear focused on injecting some stability into a relationship that has, of late, seen many ups-and-downs."
- A. Noun clause
B. Adverbial clause
C. Independent clause
D. Relative clause

6. **Directions:** In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.

S1: Amazon.com Inc was sued on Friday by consumers seeking refunds for costs passed on to them as a result of certain tariffs.

P: Following this landmark ruling, thousands of companies have begun to seek billions of dollars in refunds from the government.

Q: The U.S. Supreme Court had recently concluded that these specific tariffs had been unlawfully imposed by President Donald Trump.

R: The lawsuit alleges that this inaction is not due to a lack of legal basis, but because the company seeks to curry favor with Mr. Trump.

S: However, unlike those thousands of companies, Amazon has notably chosen not to seek any refunds.

S6: The problem, the plaintiffs argue, is that the funds the company is using to stay in the President's good graces actually belong to the consumers.

- A. P S Q R
B. Q P S R
C. S R Q P
D. Q S P R
7. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the noun "Thaw."**
A. To remove or delete a hard or fixed parameter
B. To relax or soften a cold or tense situation
C. To reduce or lessen a high or steep production
D. To resist or oppose a firm or rigid regulation
8. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the word "De facto."**
A. To reject as a fake or biased source of data
B. To create as a new or unique system of order
C. To exist as a real or actual state of affairs
D. To ignore as a weak or minor factor of change
9. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Take French leave"?**
A. Ask permission
B. Leave without permission
C. Take rest
D. Travel abroad
10. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Once in a blue moon"?**
A. Very often
B. Daily
C. Very rarely
D. Occasionally
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Duess."**
A. Veracity
B. Volition
C. Vituperation

- D. Vicinity
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Sustained."**
- A. Subjugated
 - B. Surreptitious
 - C. Supercilious
 - D. Sporadic
13. **Which of the following is an example of onomatopoeia?**
- A. Balloon
 - B. Horrible
 - C. Silence
 - D. Murmur
14. **Choose the correct option to give a one-word substitution for the sentence given.**
A person who does not drink any alcohol.
- A. Teetotaler
 - B. Non-drinker
 - C. Beverages man
 - D. Tougher
15. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
- A. Quarantine
 - B. Quarentine
 - C. Quarantee
 - D. Quarintine
16. **Choose the option with the CORRECT SPELLING of the word representing the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.**
- A. Resillience
 - B. Resilience
 - C. Resiliance
 - D. Recillience
17. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**
How does he keep all these ancient clocks in working order?
- A. How do all these ancient clocks kept in working order by him?
 - B. How are all these ancient clocks kept in working order by him?
 - C. How is all these ancient clocks kept in working order by him?
 - D. How are all these ancient clocks keep in working order by him?
18. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into active voice?**
Aren't the packages inspected before dispatch?
- A. Doesn't someone inspect the packages before dispatch?
 - B. Don't they inspected the packages before dispatch?
 - C. Aren't they inspecting the packages before dispatch?
 - D. Can't they inspect the packages before dispatch?
19. **Which is the correct combination of the given two sentences?**
He is hard-working. He is honest too.

- A. He is not only hard-working, but also honest.
B. He is only hard-working and honest.
C. He is hard-working but honest too.
D. He is not hard-working but also honest.
20. . **Which is the correct combination of the given two simple sentences using 'If' clause?**
Minchi should have worked hard. She would have cleared the test.
A. If Minchi had worked hard, she would have cleared the test.
B. Had not Minchi worked hard, she could not have cleared the test.
C. If Minchi has worked hard, she would have cleared the test.
D. If Minchi had worked hard, she will have cleared the test.

Comprehension

The Telugu moral poet Baddena, in the Sumati Shatakam, offers a simple yet enduring insight: “Peruguta viruguta korake” — that which grows must eventually decline. For a long time, humanity struggled against scarcity. Today, paradoxically, we are confronted with the consequences of (1) ____.

The “problem of plenty” is not merely economic; it is civilisational. When resources, comforts and choices cross a certain (2) ____, they begin to erode value, discipline and meaning.

In economic life, excess supply often leads not to prosperity but to (3) _____. Markets flooded with goods diminish the perceived worth of what they offer, encouraging a culture of (4) _____. Food is wasted even as hunger persists; clothing piles up even as need remains unmet. Surplus does not automatically translate into equity. Instead, it frequently results in inefficiency, waste and cyclical instability. Prices collapse under excess and are later corrected, often artificially, reinforcing volatility rather than balance.

Abundance also reshapes the human body and mind in less visible ways. Physical comfort, when unchecked, reduces the necessity for effort, fostering sedentary habits and lifestyle diseases. Equally concerning is the impact on the mind. When gratification is (5) ____ and constant, the capacity to derive joy from simple experiences diminishes. What was once a reward becomes routine; what was once sufficient feels inadequate.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
A. affluence
B. deprivation
C. abundance
D. redundancy
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
A. zenith
B. threshold
C. perimeter
D. magnitude
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
A. stagnation
B. inflation
C. distortion
D. contortion
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**

- A. consumerism
 - B. disposability
 - C. materialism
 - D. squander
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. spontaneous
 - B. ephemeral
 - C. simultaneous
 - D. instantaneous

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) (II and III only)

Statement I: says there was a "resolution," but the passage says it "concluded without any apparent breakthroughs." It is wrong to say issues were resolved when the passage says there were no breakthroughs.

Statement II: The passage says, "If both agree on the need for some stability, their priorities appear to differ." The passage clearly shows China is focused on Taiwan as the "most important issue," while Trump's "key metrics" are trade items like Boeing and soybeans.

Statement III: "...it is the limits of its ability to command global influence that have come into question increasingly, all the more so after the Iran war." This directly supports the inference that U.S. influence is being doubted and scrutinized more heavily following the conflict in Iran.

2. D) Analytical and cautionary

The author analyzes the deals (Boeing, chips, Boards) and is cautious about the future, saying "how long it will last remains to be seen."

3. C) Both a and b

Statement a: [CAN'T BE INFERRED] Line from Passage: "...it is the limits of its ability to command global influence that have come into question increasingly, all the more so after the Iran war." The statement claims U.S. influence has been "restored" and has "command." In contrast, the passage notes that U.S. influence is being "increasingly questioned," particularly following the Iran war, highlighting its limits rather than its restoration.

Statement b: [CAN'T BE INFERRED] Line from Passage: "China, for its part, has made clear it is no longer interested in biding its time or hiding its global ambitions." The statement suggests China has "resumed" its policy of "concealing global ambitions." This directly contradicts the passage, which states that China is "no longer interested" in biding its time or hiding its goals.

4. C) A participial phrase

Because it starts with a present participle ("calling") and describes an action without containing a subject and a conjugated (finite) verb, it functions as an adjective or an adverbial modifier to the noun or pronoun before it (e.g., "...the leader, calling for a constructive relationship...").

(a) Relative clause: Relative clauses are dependent clauses that must start with a relative pronoun (like that, which, or who) and contain their own subject and finite verb.

(b) Passive voice: Passive voice requires a form of "to be" + a past participle (e.g., "was called"). "Calling" is active, not passive.

(d) A finite verb: A finite verb shows tense and person and can stand alone as the main verb of a sentence (e.g., "He calls"). "Calling" is a non-finite verb because it cannot be the main verb without an auxiliary.

5. D) Relative clause

In the sentence provided, the segment "that has, of late, seen many ups-and-downs" is a relative clause (also known as an adjective clause). It functions as an adjective because it

describes or provides more information about the noun "relationship" (the antecedent). It begins with the relative pronoun "that," which links the clause to the noun it modifies.

6. B) **Q P S R**

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these specific tariffs" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'certain tariffs' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा इन टैरिफ को अवैध घोषित किया गया था।

Sentence P, Sentence Q के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this landmark ruling" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में दिए गए Supreme Court के फैसले (concluded) से जुड़ते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस फैसले के बाद अन्य कंपनियों ने रिफंड के लिए क्या कदम उठाए।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "unlike those thousands of companies" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में दी गई 'thousands of companies' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह Amazon के विपरीत व्यवहार (refund न माँगने) को पेश करके एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है।

Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this inaction" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर S में Amazon द्वारा रिफंड न माँगने के फैसले से जुड़ता है, और इसका कारण (curry favor) बताता है जो S6 (जिसमें good graces की बात है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "these specific tariffs" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'certain tariffs' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground that these tariffs were declared unlawful by the Supreme Court. Sentence P follows Q because the phrase "this landmark ruling" creates a mandatory link to the Supreme Court's conclusion mentioned in Q. It elaborates on the immediate action taken by other companies following this decision.

Sentence S follows P as it uses the phrase "unlike those thousands of companies" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the 'thousands of companies' mentioned in P. It transitions the topic by highlighting Amazon's contrasting behavior of deliberately not seeking refunds. Sentence R follows S as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "this inaction" to refer directly back to Amazon's refusal to seek refunds mentioned in S, providing the alleged reason (currying favor) which seamlessly bridges into the point about staying in the "President's good graces" made in S6.

7. B) **Thaw** (noun) - relaxation, softening, warming, easing, improvement सुधार/नरमी

8. C) **De facto** (adjective) – Existing in fact, whether with lawful authority or not; actual, real, or effective. (वास्तव में/तथ्यतः)

9. B) **“Take French leave”** means Leave without permission बिना बताए चले जाना

10. C) **“Once in a blue moon”** means Very rarely बहुत कम.

11. B) **Duress** (noun) – Threats, violence, constraints, or other action used to coerce someone into doing something. (दबाव-कष्ट)

Antonym: **Volition** (noun) – The faculty or power of using one's will; the act of making a conscious choice. (अपनी इच्छा से)

- **Veracity** (noun): Conformity to facts; accuracy; habitual truthfulness. (सच्चाई)

- **Vituperation** (noun): Bitter and abusive language; strong verbal condemnation or censure. (गाली-गलौज/तिरस्कार)

- **Vicinity** (noun): The area near or surrounding a particular place or location. (आस-पास का क्षेत्र)
12. D) **Sustained** (adjective) – Continuing for an extended period without interruption; constant. (निरंतर)
Antonym: **Sporadic** (adjective) – Occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated. (छिटपुट / रुक-रुक कर)
- **Subjugated** (adjective): Brought under domination or control, especially by conquest. (अधीन किया हुआ)
 - **Surreptitious** (adjective): Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of. (छलपूर्ण/गुप्त)
 - **Supercilious** (adjective): Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others. (घमंडी)
13. D) **Onomatopoeia** (noun) – A word that imitates the natural sound associated with it, e.g., buzz, hiss, murmur. ध्वनि अनुकरण शब्द
EXAMPLE: **Murmur** (noun/verb) – A soft, low, continuous sound, often used in the context of sounds that resemble what they describe. मर्मर
- **Balloon** (noun) – An inflatable object filled with air or gas. गुब्बारा
 - **Horrible** (adjective) – Extremely unpleasant, terrible. भयानक
 - **Silence** (noun) – Complete absence of sound. चुप्पी
14. A) **Teetotaler** (noun) – A person who does not drink alcohol पूर्णतः मद्यत्यागी
- **Non-drinker** (noun) – A general term for someone who does not drink alcohol शराब न पीने वाला
 - **Beverages man** (noun) – male professional involved in the service, sale, or production of drinks
 - **Tougher** (adjective) – Comparative form of tough; unrelated to drinking सख्त
15. A) The correctly spelt word is “**Quarantine**” which means a period of isolation to prevent the spread of disease अलगाव / क्वारंटीन / रोग नियंत्रण हेतु अलग रखना।
16. B) **Resilience** (noun) – The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness; the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape. लचीलापन या जुझारूपन
17. B) **How are all these ancient clocks kept in working order by him?**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "he" Subject है, "does keep" (Present Simple, interrogative form) Verb है और "all these ancient clocks" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "all these ancient clocks" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "are kept" (Present Simple Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by him" जोड़ा जाता है। साथ ही, प्रश्नवाचक संरचना बनाए रखने के लिए "How are" से वाक्य शुरू होता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है – "How are all these ancient clocks kept in working order by him?"
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is changed into the passive form with the correct tense. In this case, "he" (Subject), "does keep" (Verb in Present Simple interrogative), and "all these ancient clocks" (Object) are transformed into "all these ancient clocks" (Subject), "are kept" (Passive Verb in Present Simple), and "by him". The

interrogative structure is maintained by starting with "How are". Hence, the correct answer is — "How are all these ancient clocks kept in working order by him?" (Option 2)

18. A) **Doesn't someone inspect the packages before dispatch?**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और doer (agent) को Subject बनाया जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense और Auxiliary का ध्यान रखा जाता है। यहाँ "the packages" Subject है, "aren't inspected" (Present Simple Passive, interrogative) Verb है और doer स्पष्ट नहीं है (implicit)। Active में बदलने पर सामान्य Subject "someone" या "they" लिया जाता है, Verb "doesn't inspect" (Present Simple Negative Interrogative) हो जाता है और "the packages" Object बन जाता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "Doesn't someone inspect the packages before dispatch?"

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object, and an appropriate doer is introduced as the subject. The verb is converted into the correct active form with proper tense and auxiliary. In this case, "the packages" (Subject), "aren't inspected" (Present Simple Passive), and an implied doer are transformed into "someone" (Subject), "doesn't inspect" (Active Verb in Present Simple), and "the packages" (Object). Hence, the correct answer is — "Doesn't someone inspect the packages before dispatch?" (Option 1)

19. A) **He is not only hard-working, but also honest.**

- Why this is correct: Use the correlative pair 'not only ... but also ...' to add an additional positive quality with parallel adjectives.
- Why the others are incorrect:
 - Option (b): Misplaced 'only' makes it restrictive and awkward.
 - Option (c): 'But' expresses contrast; here we are adding, not contrasting.
 - Option (d): Contradicts the given statement by saying he is not hard-working.

20. A) **If Minchi had worked hard, she would have cleared the test.**

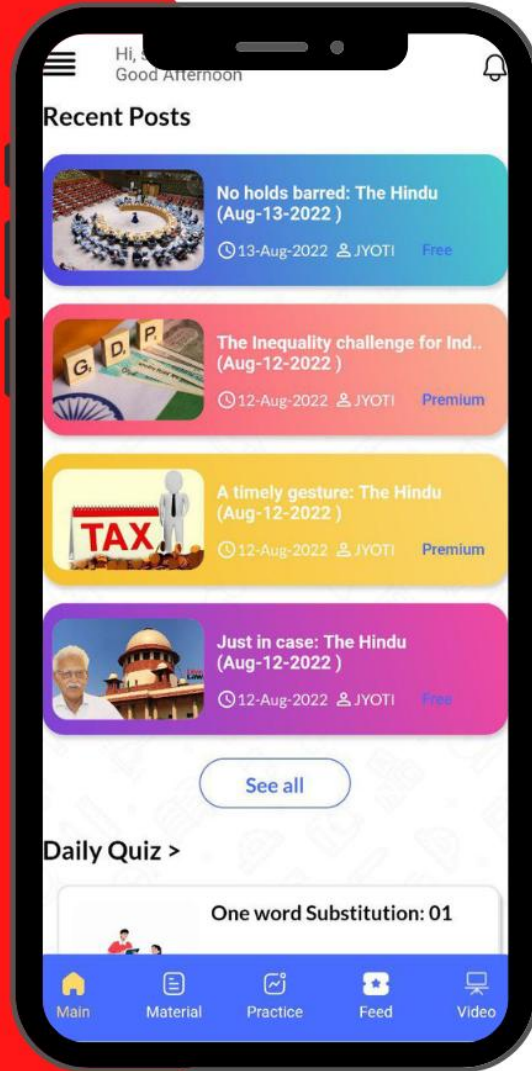
- Why this is correct: Third conditional (unreal past): If + past perfect, would have + V3 → unreal past result based on unreal past condition.
- Why the others are incorrect:
 - Option (b): Awkward negative form and flips the intended meaning.
 - Option (c): Mixes present perfect ('has worked') with 'would have'—wrong conditional.
 - Option (d): Mixes past perfect with 'will have'—wrong sequence.

21. C) **abundance** (प्रचुरता / बहुत अधिक मात्रा) सही है क्योंकि पैसेज में पिछले वाक्य में 'scarcity' (संसाधनों की कमी) की बात की गई है और फिर 'paradoxically' (हैरानी की बात है कि) कहा गया है। Scarcity का सीधा उल्टा abundance होता है। affluence (अमीरी) धन या पैसे के लिए आता है, जबकि यहाँ आम संसाधनों की बात है। deprivation (कमी) scarcity का synonym है, उल्टा नहीं। redundancy (अनावश्यकता) का मतलब किसी चीज़ का बेकार हो जाना है, जो यहाँ फिट नहीं बैठता।

- The correct answer is "abundance" because it serves as the direct paradoxical contrast to "scarcity" mentioned in the previous sentence. "Affluence" specifically refers to wealth or money, not general resources. "Deprivation" is a synonym for scarcity, not an opposite. "Redundancy" means no longer needed or useful, which doesn't fit the direct contrast of scarcity.

22. B) **threshold** (सीमा / हद) सही है क्योंकि "cross a certain threshold" अंग्रेज़ी का एक standard phrase है जिसका मतलब है किसी निश्चित सीमा को पार करना। zenith (चरम सीमा / सबसे ऊपरी बिंदु) का मतलब सबसे ऊँचा पॉइंट है, जिसे 'पार' नहीं किया जाता, बल्कि वहाँ 'पहुँचा' जाता है। perimeter (परिधि) किसी जगह (area) की बाहरी physical सीमा होती है, abstract चीज़ों (resources/comfort) के लिए नहीं। magnitude (मात्रा / आकार) को 'cross' करने का कोई अर्थ नहीं बनता।
- The correct answer is "threshold" because "cross a certain threshold" is a standard collocation referring to passing a specific limit or boundary. "Zenith" means the highest point; you reach a zenith, you don't typically cross it. "Perimeter" refers to the physical boundary of a closed geometric figure or area. "Magnitude" refers to size or extent, which cannot grammatically be "crossed" in this context.
23. C) **distortion** (विकृति / बिगाड़) सही है। Economics में जब मार्केट का बैलेंस ज़रूरत से ज़्यादा सप्लाई के कारण बिगाड़ता है और चीज़ों की असली कीमत छुप जाती है, तो उसे 'market distortion' ही कहा जाता है। stagnation (ठहराव) का मतलब विकास रुक जाना होता है। inflation (महंगाई) का मतलब कीमतें बढ़ना है, लेकिन पैसेज आगे कह रहा है कि 'Prices collapse' (कीमतें गिरती हैं), इसलिए यह गलत है। contortion का मतलब शरीर या किसी physical चीज़ का मुड़ जाना (twist) होता है।
- The correct answer is "distortion" because in economics, an imbalance caused by excess supply that ruins natural value is termed a market distortion. "Stagnation" refers to a lack of growth, not the active disruption described. "Inflation" means rising prices, but the passage later explicitly states "Prices collapse", making inflation contextually wrong. "Contortion" refers to the physical twisting of an object or body.
24. B) **disposability** (इस्तेमाल करके फेंक देने की आदत / संस्कृति) सही है क्योंकि पैसेज आगे कहता है 'Food is wasted... clothing piles up', यानी लोग चीज़ों को फेंक रहे हैं। consumerism (उपभोक्तावाद) एक broad word है, लेकिन 'culture of disposability' (use-and-throw culture) बिल्कुल सटीक है। materialism (भौतिकवाद) का मतलब चीज़ों से बहुत प्यार करना या मोह होना है, फेंकना नहीं। squander (बर्बाद करना) एक verb है, जबकि यहाँ 'of' के बाद एक noun की ज़रूरत है।
- The correct answer is "disposability" because it perfectly aligns with the subsequent examples of wasting food and piling up clothing (a "use-and-throw" culture). "Consumerism" is too broad and doesn't explicitly capture the aspect of throwing things away. "Materialism" implies an attachment to things, which contradicts discarding them easily. "Squander" is a verb, but the preposition "of" strictly requires a noun here.
25. D) **instantaneous** (तुरंत / उसी पल) सही है क्योंकि 'instant gratification' (तुरंत संतुष्टि) मनोविज्ञान (psychology) का एक जाना-माना phrase है। जब बिना इंतज़ार किए सब कुछ तुरंत मिल जाता है, तो खुशी कम हो जाती है। spontaneous (स्वाभाविक / बिना सोचे-समझे) का मतलब खुद से होने वाली कोई चीज़ है (जैसे spontaneous reaction)। ephemeral (अल्पकालिक / कम समय तक टिकने वाला) का मतलब जो जल्दी खत्म हो जाए, जबकि यहाँ बात जल्दी 'मिलने' की हो रही है। simultaneous (एक साथ) का मतलब दो चीज़ों का एक ही समय पर होना है।
- The correct answer is "instantaneous" because it describes something happening immediately. "Instantaneous gratification" is a recognized concept describing the fulfillment of desires without delay. "Spontaneous" means happening naturally or

without planning, not necessarily immediately. "Ephemeral" means lasting for a very short time. "Simultaneous" means occurring at the exact same time as something else.



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