

Escalation trap: On the U.S. and the war with Iran

Trump should change course if he wants to end the war with Iran

The **decision** by Yemen's Ansar Allah, better known as the Houthis, to **impose** a **blockade** on Saudi Arabia **signals** that the war on Iran has entered its most dangerous phase. The **Houthis**, a close Iranian **ally**, **had** avoided direct involvement due to a **fragile** but functional **ceasefire** with Saudi Arabia, despite their controlling most of Yemen's population centres, including capital Sana'a. That ceasefire effectively **fell apart** on July 13 when an airport in Sanaa was attacked by forces of "Yemen's internationally recognised government". Based in Saudi Arabia, this government maintains loyal forces inside Yemen, though the Houthis remain the country's most powerful and **influential** political and military force. Blaming Riyadh for the attack, the Houthis announced on July 20 a **blockade** on ships using Saudi ports on the Red Sea. **Saudi Arabia**, whose crude and other exports through the Strait of Hormuz have been severely **constrained** by Iran's blockade, **has** increased its **reliance on** Red Sea ports, especially Yanbu. Tankers from Yanbu to Asian markets must pass through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, which links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The Houthis control much of Yemen's Red Sea **coastline overlooking** the Bab el-Mandeb and can **enforce** a blockade of the **chokepoint**.

When Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz after the U.S.-Israel war began on February 28, all Persian Gulf states struggled to **sustain** their exports. **Saudi Arabia**, however, **cushioned** the impact by using its East-West Pipeline, which links its eastern oilfields to the Red Sea export terminals. If the Houthis enforce a total blockade on the kingdom, Riyadh could face far deeper economic **disruption**. **This, coupled with** Iran's attacks on Kuwait's **desalination** plants and power grid — after U.S. **strikes on** Iranian civilian infrastructure — **paints a grim picture of** the war and its regional consequences. If the first **phase** of Iran's **counterattack targeted** the Persian Gulf **monarchies**, the second has expanded to include Jordan, which **hosts** two major U.S. military bases. Now, with the Houthi blockade, the war's economic pain is **set to deepen** further. U.S. President Donald Trump had an opportunity to **extricate** himself from the conflict when he signed a **memorandum of understanding** with Iran on June 17. But by returning to war over disputes surrounding control of the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump has not only **squandered** the opportunity but has also raised the risk of **dragging the U.S. into** yet another forever, **unwinnable** war. At this point, he is **pursuing** the same military **tactics** against Iran repeatedly, expecting different results. If Mr. Trump wants **a way out**, he should **change course, push for** an immediate ceasefire and return to **diplomacy**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Escalation** (noun) - increase, rise, surge, intensification, heightening बढ़ोत्तरी / तीव्रता
2. **Impose** (verb) - enforce, inflict, levy, apply, exact लागू करना / थोपना
3. **Blockade** (noun) - siege, stoppage, barrier, embargo, obstruction नाकाबंदी
4. **Ally** (noun) - partner, confederate, associate, supporter, colleague सहयोगी / मित्र देश
5. **Fragile** (adjective) - delicate, weak, precarious, vulnerable, frail नाजुक / कमजोर
6. **Ceasefire** (noun) - truce, armistice, suspension, peace, let-up युद्धविराम
7. **Fall apart** (phrasal verb) - to collapse, break down, or fail completely टूटना / बिखरना
8. **Influential** (adjective) - powerful, dominant, persuasive, authoritative, impactful प्रभावशाली
9. **Constrain** (verb) - restrict, limit, curb, hamper, restrain बाधित करना / सीमित करना
10. **Reliance** (on) (noun) - dependence or trust placed on someone or something निर्भरता
11. **Coastline** (noun) - shoreline, seacoast, littoral, beach, coast तटरेखा
12. **Overlook** (verb) - face, command a view of, look over, border, front के ऊपर होना / नज़र आना
13. **Enforce** (verb) - execute, implement, impose, apply, administer लागू करना / दबाव डालना
14. **Chokepoint** (noun) - bottleneck, strategic pass, narrow channel, congestion point, pass संकीर्ण मार्ग / रणनीतिक अवरोधक
15. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, preserve, uphold, keep, continue बनाए रखना / टिके रहना
16. **Cushion** (verb) - buffer, shield, protect, soften, absorb सुरक्षा प्रदान करना / प्रभाव कम करना
17. **Disruption** (noun) - disturbance, interruption, dislocation, disorder, turmoil व्यवधान / अव्यवस्था
18. **Couple with** (phrase) - to combine or link something with another control or event के साथ जोड़ना / मिलाकर
19. **Desalination** (noun) - the process of removing salt from sea water अलवणीकरण (पानी से नमक हटाना)
20. **Strike on** (phrasal verb) - a sudden attack or military hit aimed at a target सैन्य हमला / प्रहार
21. **Paint a grim picture of** (phrase) - to depict a situation as very serious, unpleasant, or troubling गंभीर परिस्थिति को दर्शाना
22. **Counterattack** (noun) - retaliation, counteroffensive, comeback, response, counterstrike जवाबी हमला

23. **Monarchy** (noun) - kingdom, realm, empire, sovereignty, dynastic state राजतंत्र / राजशाही देश
24. **Host** (verb) - accommodate, house, harbour, provide space for, seat मेज़बानी करना / आश्रय देना
25. **Set to** (phrasal verb) - likely, ready, or poised to do something तैयार होना / होने वाला होना
26. **Deepen** (verb) - intensify, worsen, aggravate, escalate, heighten गहराना / गंभीर होना
27. **Extricate** (verb) - disentangle, free, release, rescue, liberate बाहर निकालना / मुक्त करना
28. **Memorandum of understanding** (noun) - formal agreement, pact, accord, treaty, covenant समझौता ज्ञापन
29. **Squander** (verb) - waste, misuse, dissipate, fritter away, blow गंवाना / व्यर्थ में खर्च करना
30. **Drag into** (phrasal verb) - to forcefully involve someone in an unwanted situation जबरन घसीटना
31. **Unwinnable** (adjective) - invincible, unwinnable, hopeless, unbeatable, unachievable जिसे जीता न जा सके
32. **Pursue** (verb) - follow, track, chase, seek, engage in पालन करना / अपनाना
33. **Tactics** (noun) - strategy, scheme, campaign, maneuver, approach पैंतरेबाज़ी / रणनीति
34. **A way out** (noun) - a solution or method to escape a difficult situation बाहर निकलने का रास्ता / उपाय
35. **Change course** (phrase) - to alter one's direction, plan, or policy दिशा या नीति में बदलाव करना
36. **Push for** (phrasal verb) - to advocate, demand, or work actively toward achieving something मांग करना / ज़ोर देना
37. **Diplomacy** (noun) - negotiation, statesmanship, dialogue, peacemaking, tact कूटनीति

Summary of the Editorial

1. **The Iran conflict has entered a more dangerous phase** after Yemen's Houthis announced a blockade on Saudi Arabia.
2. **The Houthis (Ansar Allah)** are a close ally of Iran and had previously avoided direct involvement because of a fragile ceasefire with Saudi Arabia.
3. **The ceasefire collapsed on July 13** after forces of Yemen's internationally recognized government attacked Sana'a airport.
4. **The Houthis blamed Saudi Arabia** for supporting the attack and announced a blockade on ships using Saudi ports on the Red Sea on July 20.
5. **Saudi Arabia has increasingly depended on Red Sea ports**, particularly Yanbu, after Iran disrupted exports through the Strait of Hormuz.
6. **Oil tankers from Yanbu must pass through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**, a strategic maritime chokepoint.
7. **The Houthis control much of Yemen's Red Sea coastline**, giving them the capability to enforce a blockade at Bab-el-Mandeb.
8. **Earlier, Iran had closed the Strait of Hormuz** following the outbreak of the U.S.-Israel war on February 28, affecting oil exports from Gulf countries.
9. **Saudi Arabia initially reduced the impact** by using its East-West Pipeline, which transports oil from eastern oilfields to Red Sea terminals.
10. **A successful Houthi blockade would severely damage Saudi Arabia's economy**, limiting even its alternative export route.
11. **Iran has also expanded its retaliation** by attacking Kuwait's desalination plants and power grid after U.S. strikes on Iranian civilian infrastructure.
12. **The conflict has spread beyond the Gulf**, with Jordan also becoming a target because it hosts major U.S. military bases.
13. **The editorial argues that the war is creating widespread regional economic disruption**, especially by threatening critical energy and shipping routes.
14. **Donald Trump had an opportunity for peace** after signing a memorandum of understanding with Iran on June 17, but the editorial argues he abandoned diplomacy and returned to military confrontation.
15. **The editorial concludes that the U.S. should immediately pursue a ceasefire and diplomatic negotiations**, warning that continued military escalation could trap America in another prolonged and unwinnable war.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **The passage deals mainly with:**

[Editorial Page]

- A. the strategic shift in U.S. foreign policy toward military engagement in Jordan
- B. the escalating regional and economic fallout of the Iran war through new blockades and military actions
- C. the history of the fragile ceasefire between the Houthis and Yemen's internationally recognised government
- D. the technical logistics of operating crude oil transport through Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline

2. **The author's primary concern seems to**

- A. analyze expanding conflict consequences
- B. evaluate regional economic metrics
- C. defend military strategic choices
- D. chronicle historical peace treaties

3. **Which of the following statements is NOT true?**

- A. Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline links its eastern oilfields to export terminals located on the Red Sea.
- B. The Houthi movement controls the capital city of Sana'a along with most of Yemen's major population centres.
- C. Jordan was targeted in the initial phase of Iran's counterattack alongside the Persian Gulf monarchies.
- D. The memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Iran was signed on June 17.

4. **The sentence: "At this point, he is pursuing the same military tactics against Iran repeatedly, expecting different results." means:**

- A. repeating past aggression against Iran will eventually force them into unconditional surrender
- B. continuing identical failed military strategies will not lead to a different or successful outcome
- C. using recycled military operations is the most efficient way to achieve a ceasefire
- D. adopting persistent tactical routines will guarantee political stability across the region

5. **The attitude of the author is:**

- A. idealistic
- B. alarmist
- C. dogmatic
- D. pragmatic

6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

- 1. This means, on an average, 40 students died by suicide in India every day in 2024.
- 2. The number of student suicides increased by about 80% from 8,068 in 2014 to 14,488 in 2024.
- 3. With the protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party and different student groups demanding Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over NEET paper leaks and student suicides capturing the nation's attention, data paints a stark picture.

4. The numbers emphasise the need to take the pressures faced by Indian students seriously.
- A. 3-1-4-2
B. 3-2-1-4
C. 2-3-1-4
D. 4-2-1-3
7. **Direction: 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 A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- S1. Anji and the other three were not allowed to return home after their work.
- A. He adds that their employer provided them with 'ration biyyam' (PDS rice) and vegetables that was sufficient for a week, and at night, they were given a quarter bottle of liquor.
B. "Whether it rained or it was a hot summer, we had no other option but to stay in the hut during the nights," another victim, 40-year-old Vadde Kumaru, says.
C. Kumaru took a loan of ₹50,000 five years ago from his employer.
D. "They provided a small makeshift thatched hut at one of the highest points of the terrain," he explains.
- S6. "We were up early in the morning and cooked our own food; by 6 a.m., we had to start stone-cutting, and it continued till we completed the task of cutting 100 stones," he says.
- A. D-B-C-A
B. B-D-C-A
C. D-C-B-A
D. C-D-A-B
8. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the noun "Tit-for-tat strikes."**
- A. unexpected financial gains resulting from market volatility
B. deliberate attempts to undermine the authority of a leader
C. retaliatory attacks where each side hits the other equally
D. systematic reviews conducted to assess the quality of work
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Allege."**
- A. Banish
B. Cajole
C. Dither
D. Assert
10. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Intervention."**
- A. Arbitration
B. Resignation
C. Compunction
D. Retribution
11. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Down in the mouth"?**
- A. Feeling happy
B. Feeling angry
C. Feeling excited
D. Feeling sad
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Persist."**
- A. Cease

- B. Cavort
C. Broach
D. Adhere
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Dissipate."**
A. Accumulate
B. Exhilarate
C. Obliterate
D. Rejuvenate
14. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**
A person who loves money and hates spending it
A. Investor
B. Miser
C. Banker
D. Lender
15. **Choose the most appropriate word that can substitute the given group of words.**
A person travelling on foot
A. Vagabond
B. Pedestrian
C. Bibliophile
D. Equestrian
16. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
The discovery opened a new **relm** of possibilities.
A. relm
B. realm
C. realme
D. rhelm
17. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**
Dinner is being prepared by my sister.
A. Dinner prepared my sister.
B. My sister is preparing dinner.
C. My sister prepares dinner.
D. My sister was preparing dinner.
18. **A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.**
He said to me, "Where have you been all this while?"
A. He asked me where had I been all that while.
B. He asked me where I have been all that while.
C. He asked me where I had been all that while.
D. He asked where I was being all this while.
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The prisoners made an elaborate plan to escape _____ the jail.
A. in
B. by
C. for

D. from

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

He is **blind from one eye**.

- A. blind with one eye
- B. blind in one eye
- C. blind on one eye
- D. blind by one eye

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

On June 21, 2026, a balmy Sunday morning, Malayalam movie stars had started arriving in their luxury vehicles at a convention centre in Ernakulam.

Waving and exchanging pleasantries with a battery of media persons who eagerly clicked pictures and took visuals of the stars of tinsel town, they walked into the conference hall where the annual general body meeting of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) _____(3) scheduled to be held.

Inside the hall, they smiled and hugged each other, shook hands with some, and engaged in small talk. The atmosphere was all (1) amiable, pleasant and genial.

None _____(4) an idea that it was the calm before the storm.

A few minutes into the proceedings, a raging Shwetha Menon, the first woman president of the actors' body, stormed out _____(5) the meeting, announcing her resignation from the post.

It was a no-confidence motion moved against her by a section of the members that provoked Shwetha to announce her resignation. An (2) incensed Shwetha also announced that she was quitting from the primary membership of the organisation.

21. The word "amiable" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1).

- A. hostile
- B. friendly
- C. arrogant
- D. dismal

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "incensed" as used in the passage: (2)

- A. enraged
- B. infuriated
- C. calmed
- D. agitated

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)

- A. was
- B. were
- C. is
- D. being

24. Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence: (4)

- A. have
- B. had
- C. having
- D. has

25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**

- A. into
- B. from
- C. of
- D. off

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) the escalating regional and economic fallout of the Iran war through new blockades and military actions**

The passage primarily discusses how the conflict is widening and intensifying — the Houthi blockade on Saudi Arabia, Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, attacks on Kuwait's infrastructure, expansion of the conflict to Jordan, and the broader economic disruption this causes across the region. It ties these events together to show the war "entering its most dangerous phase" with deepening economic pain.

(a) Incorrect: Jordan is only mentioned briefly in one sentence as an example of the war's expansion; it is a minor supporting detail, not the main focus.

(c) Incorrect: The Houthi-Yemeni government ceasefire is discussed in Paragraph 1 merely as context to explain why the Houthis instituted the new Red Sea blockade.

(d) Incorrect: The East-West Pipeline is a specific detail used to illustrate how Saudi Arabia initially mitigated the Hormuz closure, not the overarching subject of the passage.

2. **A) analyze expanding conflict consequences**

The passage traces how the conflict has widened — from the Strait of Hormuz closure, to the Houthi blockade, to attacks on Kuwait's infrastructure, to Jordan's involvement — while explaining the resulting economic and strategic fallout (disrupted oil exports, deepening economic pain, risk of a "forever, unwinnable war"). This is the author's central concern throughout.

(b) Incorrect: Economic factors (like crude exports and pipelines) are discussed, but only as symptoms/consequences of the war, not to evaluate broader economic metrics or financial data.

(c) Incorrect: the author is critical of Trump's military approach ("squandered the opportunity," "pursuing the same military tactics... expecting different results"), not defending it.

(d) Incorrect: The passage discusses current tactical military developments and ongoing blockades, not a chronicle of past historical peace treaties.

3. **C) Jordan was targeted in the initial phase of Iran's counterattack alongside the Persian Gulf monarchies.**

Line from passage: "If the first phase of Iran's counterattack targeted the Persian Gulf monarchies, the second has expanded to include Jordan, which hosts two major U.S. military bases." Statement (c) claims Jordan was targeted in the initial (first) phase. However, the passage specifies that Jordan was included in the second phase of expansion, while the first phase targeted only the Persian Gulf monarchies.

(a) True: The passage states that the East-West Pipeline "links its eastern oilfields to the Red Sea export terminals."

(b) True: The passage states that the Houthis avoided direct involvement "despite their controlling most of Yemen's population centres, including capital Sana'a."

(d) True: The passage explicitly states that President Trump "signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran on June 17."

4. B) continuing identical failed military strategies will not lead to a different or successful outcome

Context from passage: "At this point, he is pursuing the same military tactics against Iran repeatedly, expecting different results. If Mr. Trump wants a way out, he should change course, push for an immediate ceasefire and return to diplomacy." This sentence is an allusion to the popular definition of insanity (doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result). The author is asserting that continuing the exact same failed military tactics will not suddenly bring about a favorable resolution—and that a total change of course toward diplomacy is required instead.

(a) Incorrect: The author presents this pattern of behavior as irrational and foolish, not as a valid tactic that will force a surrender.

(c) Incorrect: The author explicitly states that achieving a ceasefire requires changing course and returning to diplomacy, not reusing old military operations.

(d) Incorrect: The passage argues that these repeated military tactics have only deepened economic pain and expanded the conflict, rather than guaranteeing stability.

5. D) **pragmatic**

A pragmatic attitude focuses on practical outcomes, real-world consequences, and sensible solutions. The author lays out the escalating consequences of the conflict in a grounded, practical way — tracing cause-and-effect (blockades, pipeline workarounds, economic disruption) — and ends with a realistic, actionable solution: "If Mr. Trump wants a way out, he should change course, push for an immediate ceasefire and return to diplomacy." This is a sensible, results-oriented recommendation.

(a) Idealistic — incorrect; the author isn't proposing a utopian or unrealistic vision, just a practical course correction.

(c) Alarmist — incorrect; while the situation is serious ("most dangerous phase," "grim picture"), the author provides factual, logical steps of escalation (Phase 1 to Phase 2) and offers a calm, actionable policy solution (diplomacy).

(c) Dogmatic — incorrect; the author isn't rigidly pushing an ideology, but analyzing events and offering a flexible, reasonable policy suggestion (return to diplomacy)..

6. B) **3-2-1-4**

Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह बिना किसी missing reference या ambiguous pronoun के "protests" और "data paints a stark picture" के broad context को independently introduce करता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 में mention किए गए "data" को expand करते हुए exact statistics (80% increase in student suicides) प्रस्तुत करता है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "This means" एक सीधा grammatical link है, जो Sentence 2 के 14,488 suicides वाले कुल आँकड़े (total figure) को break down करके आसान शब्दों (40 students every day) में समझाता है।

Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The numbers" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 और 1 में दिए गए आँकड़ों की ओर इशारा करता है,

और यह निष्कर्ष निकालकर passage को बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त करता है कि छात्रों के दबाव (pressures) को गंभीरता से लेने की ज़रूरत है।

- Sentence 3 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the recent protests and setting up the premise that "data paints a stark picture" without relying on any prior references or dangling pronouns.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 3 because it acts as a logical progression, directly providing the specific "data" mentioned in Sentence 3 by detailing the 80% increase in student suicides over the decade.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 because the demonstrative phrase "This means" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the total figure (14,488) established in Sentence 2 to break it down into a digestible daily average (40 students a day).
- Sentence 4 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. The definite phrase "The numbers" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing exactly back to the statistics provided in Sentences 2 and 1, seamlessly wrapping up the paragraph by highlighting the urgent need to address student pressures.

7. A) D-B-C-A

Sentence D S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह S1 की बात (उन्हें घर वापस नहीं जाने दिया जाता था) का logical continuation है। यह बताता है कि अगर वे घर नहीं जा सकते थे, तो उन्हें कहाँ रखा जाता था (a small makeshift thatched hut)।

Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "the hut" एक सीधा grammatical link है, जो Sentence D में introduce की गई "thatched hut" को point करता है। यह बताता है कि मौसम कैसा भी हो, उन्हें उसी hut में रहना पड़ता था, और यहीं पहली बार "Vadde Kumaru" को introduce किया गया है।

Sentence C Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ नाम "Kumaru" सीधे तौर पर Sentence B में introduce किए गए "Vadde Kumaru" को refer करता है। यह उनकी व्यक्तिगत स्थिति (personal background) को बताता है कि उन्होंने ₹50,000 का loan लिया था।

Sentence A Sentence C के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "He" सीधे तौर पर Sentence C के "Kumaru" को point करता है। यह उनके रहने की स्थिति (खाने-पीने) को expand करता है कि उन्हें राशन और शराब दी जाती थी। S6 फिर इस routine को बेहतरीन तरीके से conclude करता है कि वे अपना खाना खुद पकाते थे और सुबह 6 बजे से काम शुरू कर देते थे।

- Sentence D immediately follows S1 because it acts as a logical progression, answering the immediate question raised by S1: If they were not allowed to return home, where did they stay? (They were provided a makeshift thatched hut).
- Sentence B follows Sentence D because the definite phrase "the hut" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "thatched hut" introduced in D. It also introduces the speaker, "Vadde Kumaru," for the first time.
- Sentence C follows Sentence B because the name "Kumaru" is a direct link, pointing back to "Vadde Kumaru" introduced in B, shifting slightly to provide the necessary context of his specific debt situation.
- Sentence A follows Sentence C and perfectly sets up S6. The pronoun "He" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing back to "Kumaru" in C. It details the specific provisions

(rice, vegetables, liquor) they were given to survive at the site. S6 then seamlessly concludes the sequence by describing how they utilized those provisions (cooking their own food) before starting their grueling daily work routine.

8. C) **Tit-for-tat strikes** (noun) – retaliatory attacks where each side hits the other equally. (ईंट का जवाब पत्थर से देना)
9. D) **Allege** (verb) - claim, assert, charge, state, plead. (आरोप लगाना)
 Synonym: **Assert** (verb) – State a fact or belief confidently and forcefully; to claim something is true. (दावा करना)
- **Banish** (verb): Send someone away from a country or place as an official punishment. (निकाल देना)
 - **Cajole** (verb): Persuade someone to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery. (फुसलाना)
 - **Dither** (verb): To be indecisive; to be unable to make a choice about something. (दुविधा में होना)
10. A) **Intervention** (noun) – interference, involvement, mediation, arbitration, entry. (हस्तक्षेप)
 Synonym: **Arbitration** (noun) – The use of an arbitrator to settle a dispute; the process of resolving a conflict. (मध्यस्थता)
- **Resignation** (noun): An act of retiring or giving up a position; the acceptance of something undesirable. (त्यागपत्र / आत्मसमर्पण)
 - **Compunction** (noun): A feeling of guilt or moral scruple that prevents or follows the doing of something bad. (पछतावा)
 - **Retribution** (noun): Punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act. (प्रतिशोध)
11. D) “**Down in the mouth**” means Feeling sad उदास होना
12. A) **Persist** (verb) – continue, remain, endure, last, carry on. (बने रहना)
 Antonym: **Cease** (verb) - Bring or come to an end; stop completely. (समाप्त होना / रुकना)
- **Cavort** (verb): To jump or dance around excitedly; to behave in a high-spirited manner. (कूदना-फांदना)
 - **Broach** (verb): To raise a difficult or sensitive subject for discussion for the first time. (चर्चा चलाना)
 - **Adhere** (verb): To believe in and follow the practices of; to stick fast to a surface. (पालन करना)
13. A) **Dissipate** (verb) – vanish, disappear, dissolve, evaporate, disperse. (खत्म हो जाना)
 Antonym: **Accumulate** (verb) – To gather together or acquire an increasing number or quantity of something. (जमा करना/एकत्रित करना)
- **Exhilarate** (verb): To make someone feel very happy, animated, or elated; to thrill or excite someone. (आनंदित करना)
 - **Obliterate** (verb): To destroy utterly; to wipe out or cause something to be completely forgotten. (मिटा देना)
 - **Rejuvenate** (verb): To make someone or something look or feel younger, fresher, or more lively and vital. (कायाकल्प करना)

14. B) **Miser** (noun) – A person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible. कंजूस
- **Investor** (noun) – a person or organization that puts money into financial schemes, shares, property, etc., with the expectation of achieving a profit. निवेशक
 - **Banker** (noun) – a person who manages or owns a bank. बैंकर
 - **Lender** (noun) – a person or organization that lends money. उधारदाता
15. B) **Pedestrian** (noun) – A person travelling on foot पैदल यात्री
- **Vagabond** (noun) – A person who wanders from place to place without a home or job. आवारा
 - **Bibliophile** (noun) – A person who collects or has a great love of books. पुस्तक प्रेमी
 - **Equestrian** (noun) – Relating to horse riding. अश्वारोही
16. B) The correct spelling of 'relm' is '**realm**' which means "a domain, sphere, or field of activity or interest" क्षेत्र, कार्य-क्षेत्र।
17. B) **My sister is preparing dinner.**
 Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent (by + doer) Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को Passive से Active रूप में बदला जाता है, साथ ही Tense वही रखा जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Tense Present Continuous Passive है। Passive वाक्य में "Dinner" Subject है, "is being prepared" Verb है और "by my sister" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर Agent "my sister" Subject बन जाता है, Verb "is preparing" (Present Continuous Active) हो जाता है और "dinner" Object बनता है।
- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the verb is converted from passive to active while maintaining the same tense. Here, the sentence is in the Present Continuous tense. "Dinner" is the subject, "is being prepared" is the passive verb, and "by my sister" is the agent. In the active form, "my sister" becomes the subject, the verb changes to "is preparing," and "dinner" becomes the object.
18. C) **He asked me where I had been all that while.**
 Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय, interrogative sentence को reported question में बदला जाता है, इसलिए question form हट जाती है और statement order आ जाता है।
 Reporting verb "said to" बदलकर "asked" हो जाता है।
 Direct sentence में "Where have you been ...?" (Present Perfect) है, जो Indirect Speech में Past Perfect (had been) में बदलता है।
 Pronoun "you" बदलकर "I" हो जाता है और time expression "this while" बदलकर "that while" हो जाता है। इसलिए विकल्प C सही है।
 While converting Direct to Indirect Speech, questions are changed into statements, and the interrogative order is removed.
 The reporting verb "said to" changes to "asked".
 The tense Present Perfect ("have been") correctly shifts to Past Perfect ("had been"), the pronoun "you" changes to "I", and "this" changes to "that."
 Hence, option C most accurately conveys the sentence in indirect speech.
19. D) '**From**' का use होगा क्योंकि "from" का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थान या स्थिति से दूर जाना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि कैदियों ने जेल से भागने के लिए एक विस्तृत योजना बनाई है, इसलिए 'from'

यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'In' का अर्थ है किसी स्थान पर होना, 'By' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के माध्यम से, और 'For' का अर्थ है किसी उद्देश्य या कारण के लिए, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'From' should be used because it signifies moving away from a place or situation. The sentence mentions that the prisoners made an elaborate plan to escape from the jail, making 'from' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'In' means being at a location, 'By' implies through something, and 'For' indicates a purpose or reason, which don't fit in this context

20. B) 'blind from one eye' के स्थान पर '**blind in one eye**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि शारीरिक स्थिति या अक्षमता (physical condition) को व्यक्त करते समय eye के साथ सही preposition 'in' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। अन्य विकल्प प्रचलित और व्याकरणिक रूप से सही नहीं हैं।

- 'blind in one eye' should be used instead of 'blind from one eye' because the correct idiomatic preposition used with blind and body parts like eye is 'in'.

The other prepositions do not fit standard English usage.

21. B) Friendly is the correct answer because it directly means having a pleasant, warm, and sociable manner, perfectly matching the context of actors smiling, hugging, and sharing a "pleasant and genial" atmosphere. Hostile means aggressive or showing ill will, which is the exact opposite (antonym). Arrogant means having an exaggerated sense of one's own importance, which completely contradicts a warm, welcoming environment. Dismal means depressing, gloomy, or dreary, completely contradicting the happy mood described.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Friendly सही है क्योंकि यह "amiable" का direct synonym है, जिसका meaning मिलनसार और सौहार्दपूर्ण होता है (जैसे passage में मुस्कुराने और गले मिलने का माहौल था)। Hostile का meaning दुश्मन जैसा या उग्र होता है (जो antonym है)। Arrogant का meaning घमंडी होता है। Dismal का meaning बहुत उदास या निराशाजनक होता है, जो खुशी के माहौल के बिल्कुल उलट है।

22. C) Calmed is the correct answer because the question specifically asks for an antonym (opposite word). "Incensed" means extremely angry or enraged (provoked by the no-confidence motion). "Calmed" means peaceful and composed, making it the perfect logical opposite. Enraged, Infuriated, and Agitated are all direct synonyms of incensed, meaning furious, violently angry, or highly disturbed.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Calmed सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Incensed" का meaning बहुत अधिक क्रोधित या भड़का हुआ होता है। "Calmed" का meaning शांत होना होता है, जो इसका perfect opposite है। Enraged, Infuriated, और Agitated सभी incensed के synonyms हैं, जिनका meaning अत्यधिक गुस्सा या अशांत होना होता है।

23. A) Was is used because the grammatical subject of the clause is "the annual general body meeting," which is a singular noun phrase. Furthermore, the entire narrative is set in the past tense ("started arriving," "walked into"), strictly requiring a singular past-tense auxiliary verb to form the passive construction ("was scheduled"). Were is grammatically fatal because it is plural. Is violates the timeline by shifting abruptly into the present tense. Being is a participle and cannot function as the main finite auxiliary verb without another helping verb attached to it.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Was का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि clause का subject "annual general body meeting" singular है। पूरी कहानी past tense में चल रही है ("walked into"), इसलिए passive voice बनाने के लिए past tense की singular helping verb "was" ही आनी चाहिए। Were plural है। Is present tense है, जो past की कहानी का flow तोड़ देगा। Being बिना किसी और helping verb के main verb की तरह काम नहीं कर सकता।

24. B) Had is used because it acts as the main finite verb indicating possession ("having an idea") in the simple past tense. This flawlessly maintains the established past-tense narrative of the passage ("was the calm," "stormed out"). Have is a present-tense plural verb. Has is a present-tense singular verb. Using either of these would completely break the chronological timeline of the story. Having is a participle ("-ing" form) that grammatically cannot stand alone as a main verb without an auxiliary verb (like "were having").

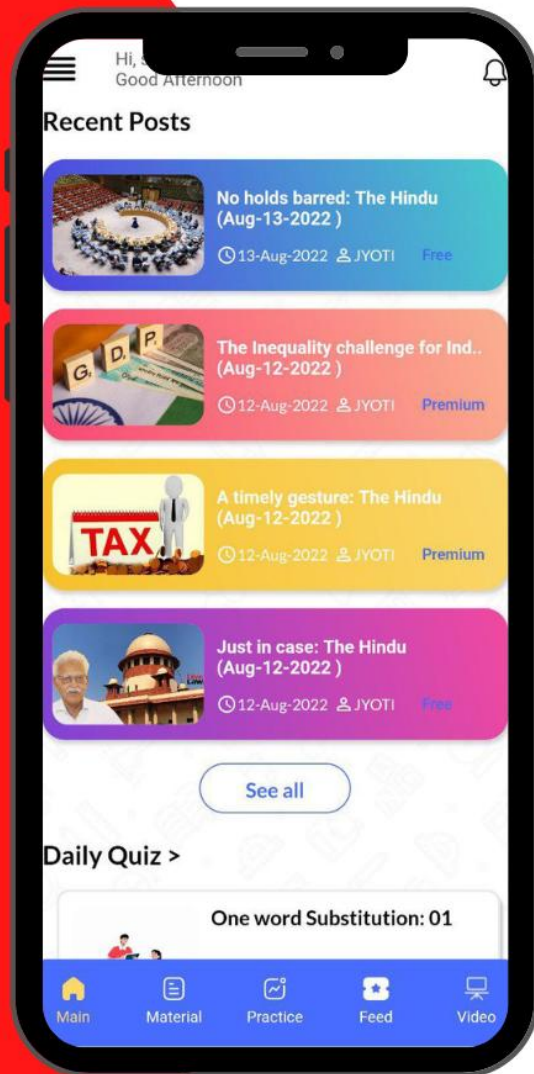
In Hindi:

- यहाँ Had का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह past tense की verb है जो possession (विचार होना) दिखाती है और passage की past-tense कहानी ("was the calm") के साथ बिल्कुल सही बैठती है। Have और Has present tense की verbs हैं, जो timeline को पूरी तरह बिगाड़ देंगी। Having continuous form है, जो बिना helping verb के sentence में main verb नहीं बन सकता।

25. C) Of is used because "storm out of [a place]" is the strict, fixed English prepositional idiom used to describe leaving an enclosed space angrily and abruptly. Into means moving to the inside of a place, which directly contradicts the action of resigning and leaving. From is grammatically incorrect because the standard idiom for exiting a confined room/building in anger is "out of," never "out from." Off can be used as an adverb without a noun object ("she stormed off"), but when the specific location is explicitly mentioned ("the meeting"), the preposition "out of" is absolutely mandatory.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Of का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि English grammar में किसी बंद जगह (जैसे meeting hall) से गुस्से में बाहर निकलने के लिए हमेशा "storm out of" idiom का ही use होता है। Into का meaning अंदर जाना होता है, जो बाहर निकलने का उल्टा है। From यहाँ grammatically गलत है क्योंकि "out" के साथ जगह छोड़ने के लिए "from" नहीं बल्कि "of" आता है। Off का use तब होता है जब जगह का नाम न दिया हो ("she stormed off"), लेकिन यहाँ "the meeting" दिया है, इसलिए "out of" ही सही है।



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