

Shifting sands: On the Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye Joint Defence Agreement

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye will struggle to create **credible deterrent**

The joint defence **agreement**, signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in Mecca on August 7 **reflects** their shared **strategic anxieties** and the changes **under way** in West Asia's security **architecture**. The three countries have **pledged** to **bolster** collective security and **deterrence**, and promised to treat an armed attack against one as an attack against all. **On paper**, this is a **formidable alliance**. Pakistan is a nuclear-armed country with a powerful military; **Saudi Arabia**, one of the world's largest crude oil exporters, **has** deep **pockets** and **considerable** influence across the Muslim world; and Türkiye has an expanding military industrial base, including advanced drone production capabilities. That the **pact** was announced in the middle of the war on Iran and Israel's continuing bombing campaigns in the region is no **coincidence**. Faced with the **prospect** of reduced American **strategic** presence in West Asia, regional powers have begun looking beyond the traditional U.S. security **umbrella** for new partnerships. In September 2025, a few weeks after Israel **bombed** Qatar, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia announced a **bilateral** defence agreement. The war on Iran, which saw Tehran **retaliating** by **striking** U.S. bases across the Persian Gulf, and Israel's wars in its **neighbourhood**, have further **deepened** the security concerns of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. They have now decided to **turn the page on** their **often fraught** relationship and build a **trilateral framework** with Pakistan, which fought a short **aerial** war with India in May 2025.

This agreement shows the growing **appetite** of regional powers for formal security **pacts**. **Türkiye**, which has long **sought** a bigger role in West Asia, **will** gain more **strategic space**. **Pakistan**, traditionally a South Asian regional power **overshadowed** by India, **is** also **seeking** to expand its role as a West Asia security provider and **mediator**. The **alliance** would allow the three countries to **deepen** defence cooperation and military **interoperability** though it is too early to say whether it would help them **address** their security challenges. **Alliances** based on collective security, such as NATO and CSTO, **are** generally formed to build deterrence against conflicts. The biggest **liability** of the Mecca Agreement **is** that it was signed amid ongoing wars. Over the past five months, Saudi Arabia has faced repeated Iranian missile and drone attacks. The **collective** security **pledge** is **unlikely** to **deter** Iran from targeting U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia if the **war**, currently on pause, **escalates** further. **Existing** conflicts, therefore, **make** the promise of collective defence largely symbolic from the very **outset**. So, the **credibility** of the Mecca Agreement **will** ultimately depend on whether the three partners can turn their political **commitment** into a **credible** deterrent, which is currently **non-existent**. **[Practice Ex.]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Shifting sands** (phrase) - a situation, place, or idea that is unstable, unpredictable, and constantly changing बदलती हुई परिस्थितियां
2. **Credible** (adjective) - believable, trustworthy, reliable, dependable, convincing विश्वसनीय
3. **Deterrent** (noun) - deterrent factor, disincentive, check, curb, hindrance निवारक
4. **Reflect** (verb) - mirror, show, indicate, demonstrate, manifest प्रतिबिंबित करना
5. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, policy-based, long-term, vital रणनीतिक
6. **Anxiety** (noun) - concern, worry, apprehension, uneasiness, nervousness चिंता
7. **Under way** (phrase) - in progress, happening प्रगति पर
8. **Architecture** (noun) - framework, structure, system, design, organization ढांचा
9. **Pledge** (verb) - promise, vow, commitment, oath, swear संकल्प लेना
10. **Bolster** (verb) - strengthen, reinforce, support, boost, prop up मजबूत करना
11. **Deterrence** (noun) - discouragement, prevention, containment, dissuasion प्रतिरोध या रोकने की क्षमता
12. **On paper** (phrase) - theoretically, notionally, formally, in writing कागजी तौर पर
13. **Formidable** (adjective) - powerful, imposing, daunting, redoubtable, impressive शक्तिशाली
14. **Deepen** (verb) - intensify, aggravate, heighten, grow, strengthen गहरा करना
15. **Turn the page on** (phrase) - move on from, make a fresh start किसी पुराने दौर को पीछे छोड़ना
16. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, commonly अक्सर
17. **Fraught** (adjective) - tense, strained, difficult, troubled, fraught with तनावपूर्ण
18. **Trilateral** (adjective) - three-way, triangular, triple त्रिपक्षीय
19. **Framework** (noun) - structure, system, layout, outline, scaffolding ढांचा
20. **Aerial** (adjective) - airborne, air-based, avian, flight-related हवाई
21. **Appetite** (noun) - desire, craving, hunger, thirst, inclination चाहत
22. **Seek** (verb) - try, attempt, pursue, look for, aim तलाश करना
23. **Alliance** (noun) - coalition, partnership, league, union, pact गठबंधन
24. **Pocket** (noun) - resource, fund, financial reserve, area, region धन का स्रोत
25. **Considerable** (adjective) - significant, substantial, large, notable, appreciable काफी
26. **Pact** (noun) - agreement, treaty, deal, accord, convention समझौता

27. **Coincidence** (noun) - chance, accident, fortuity, happenstance संयोग
28. **Prospect** (noun) - possibility, likelihood, outlook, chance, expectation संभावना
29. **Umbrella** (noun) - protection, shelter, cover, safeguard, shield सुरक्षा-कवच
30. **Bomb** (verb) - attack with bombs, blast, blitz बमबारी करना
31. **Bilateral** (adjective) - two-way, dual, mutual, between two parties द्विपक्षीय
32. **Retaliate** (verb) - fight back, strike back, counter-attack, take revenge प्रतिशोध लेना
33. **Strike** (verb) - hit, attack, smite, bash, assault प्रहार करना
34. **Neighbourhood** (noun) - vicinity, surrounding area, proximity, locality पड़ोस
35. **Space** (noun) - room, leeway, scope, freedom, margin जगह
36. **Overshadow** (verb) - outshine, eclipse, dwarf, dominate, throw into shade फीका कर देना
37. **Mediator** (noun) - negotiator, intermediary, peacemaker, arbitrator, middleman मध्यस्थ
38. **Interoperability** (noun) - compatibility, system integration, operational coordination पारस्परिकता
39. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, deal with, resolve, remedy समाधान करना
40. **Liability** (noun) - drawback, disadvantage, vulnerability, encumbrance, weakness दायित्व
41. **Collective** (adjective) - joint, shared, communal, combined, cooperative सामूहिक
42. **Pledge** (noun) - commitment, promise, vow, assurance, oath प्रतिज्ञा
43. **Unlikely** (adjective) - improbable, doubtful, implausible, questionable जिसकी संभावना न हो
44. **Deter** (verb) - discourage, dissuade, prevent, stop, inhibit रोकना
45. **Escalate** (verb) - intensify, increase, mount, amplify, heighten भड़कना
46. **Existing** (adjective) - current, present, extant, active, operational मौजूदा
47. **Outset** (noun) - beginning, start, inception, dawn, commencement शुरुआत
48. **Credibility** (noun) - reliability, trustworthiness, plausibility, integrity विश्वसनीयता
49. **Commitment** (noun) - dedication, devotion, pledge, obligation, assurance प्रतिबद्धता
50. **Non-existent** (adjective) - absent, missing, nil, void, non-fictional अस्तित्वहीन

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye** signed a joint defence agreement in Mecca on **August 7**, reflecting their shared security concerns.
2. The agreement aims to **strengthen collective security and deterrence**, with the three countries promising to treat an attack on one as an attack on all.
3. **On paper, the alliance appears powerful** because Pakistan has nuclear weapons and a strong military, Saudi Arabia has financial resources and regional influence, and Türkiye has a growing defence industry.
4. The agreement comes amid **wars involving Iran and Israel**, highlighting growing security concerns in West Asia.
5. The pact also reflects fears about a **reduced U.S. strategic presence** in West Asia and the desire of regional countries to explore alternative security partnerships.
6. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had already signed a **bilateral defence agreement** in September 2025, following Israel's bombing of Qatar.
7. The war involving Iran, including Tehran's attacks on U.S. bases, and Israel's continuing military operations have **deepened the security concerns** of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.
8. Saudi Arabia and Türkiye have decided to move beyond their **often difficult relationship** and establish a trilateral security framework with Pakistan.
9. The agreement demonstrates the growing **appetite for formal security alliances** among regional powers seeking greater influence and protection.
10. **Türkiye** could gain greater strategic space in West Asia, supporting its long-standing ambition to play a larger regional role.
11. **Pakistan** also hopes to expand its role beyond South Asia by becoming a **security provider and mediator** in West Asia.
12. The alliance could improve **defence cooperation and military interoperability**, but its actual ability to solve the three countries' security challenges remains uncertain.
13. The major weakness of the agreement is that it was created while **regional conflicts are still ongoing**, particularly tensions involving Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel.
14. The collective-defence promise may not be enough to **deter Iran**, especially if the current pause in fighting ends and the conflict escalates.
15. Therefore, the agreement's **credibility will depend on converting political commitments into an actual deterrent**; at present, the editorial argues that such a credible deterrent is largely **non-existent**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, what is one major obstacle to ensuring the Mecca Agreement effectively functions as a regional security deterrent?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The timing of the treaty during active regional conflicts makes the mutual defense commitment a symbolic gesture rather than a practical preventive measure.
 - B. The reliance on a traditional security umbrella prevents the three nations from establishing their own independent and fully sovereign trilateral military infrastructure.
 - C. The commitment of resources to South Asian territorial disputes limits the ability of the nuclear-armed partner to provide sufficient security mediation in West Asian territories.
 - D. The diversity of military industrial bases and economic backgrounds creates a logistical barrier that undermines the political promise of achieving seamless military interoperability.
2. **According to the passage, what is one major potential outcome of the Mecca Agreement for the participating nations?**
 - A. It provides a functional deterrent against active regional missile and drone threats
 - B. It reinforces the strategic necessity of maintaining a primary American security role
 - C. It allows a nation focused on the subcontinent to serve as a regional arbitrator
 - D. It establishes a military framework that replaces the global security norms of NATO
3. **Which one of the following CANNOT be inferred from the passage?**
 - A. Saudi Arabia and Türkiye set aside long-standing tensions due to shared regional anxieties.
 - B. Pakistan seeks to leverage the pact to build influence beyond South Asia's borders.
 - C. Declining American commitment is prompting new security alignments among regional powers.
 - D. The trilateral pact will neutralize the missile threats Saudi Arabia currently faces.
4. **In the sentence, "They have now decided to turn the page on their often fraught relationship and build a trilateral framework with Pakistan," the phrase "to turn the page on their often fraught relationship" is:**
 - A. an infinitive phrase acting as the direct object of the primary verb
 - B. a participial phrase modifying the subject "they" as a description
 - C. a prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb to show the intent
 - D. a subjunctive clause representing the hypothetical goal of states
5. **The phrase "largely symbolic from the very outset" implies:**
 - A. a pact that gains credibility once external threats subside
 - B. an agreement designed for domestic political messaging
 - C. a treaty whose terms were left deliberately vague by design
 - D. a commitment whose practical deterrent value is weak from the start
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Mascot."**
 - A. Milestone
 - B. Denouement
 - C. Emblem
 - D. Rift
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

1. Located on India's border with Bhutan in the foothills of the Himalayas, the National Park takes its name from the river Manas, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, which passes through the reserve forest.
 2. If asked to name a National Park in Assam, most people would say "Kaziranga".
 3. Originally a hunting area for the royal families of Cooch Behar and Gauripur, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1928 with an area of 391 sq.km.
 4. But the state is also home to Manas National Park, a biosphere reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Natural).
- A. 2-4-1-3
B. 4-1-3-2
C. 2-1-4-3
D. 1-3-4-2
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
GARRULOUS
A. Talkative
B. Noisy
C. Chatty
D. Sociable
9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:**
"Pound of flesh"
A. A fair and generous demand
B. A symbolic compromise
C. A harsh demand for rightful payment
D. A gift given in return
10. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
REPOSTE
A. Endorsement
B. Apology
C. Compliment
D. Confirmation
11. **Pick the correctly spelt word meaning 'a skilled craftsman or builder'.**
A. Artizan
B. Artisan
C. Artesan
D. Artisen
12. **Identify the misspelt word:**
A. Dialectic
B. Solipsism
C. Exestentialism
D. Determinism
13. **What is the one-word term for: "A narrative or dramatic technique in literature in which the line between reality and fiction is intentionally blurred, often involving self-referentiality or characters aware of their fictional nature."**

- A. Metafiction
 - B. Allegory
 - C. Surrealism
 - D. Parable
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Upkeep.”**
- A. Automation
 - B. Depredation
 - C. Inequity
 - D. Nuisance
15. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
His influence (1)/ lasted from a decade (2)/ impacting key policies (3)/ across sectors. (4)
- A. (1)
 - B. (2)
 - C. (3)
 - D. (4)
16. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option:**
The marketing campaign was so vague that its message failed to _____ with the target audience.
- A. sink on
 - B. sink out
 - C. sink in
 - D. sink through
17. **Select the correctly spelt word meaning ‘a person who avoids society’.**
- A. Recluse
 - B. Reclose
 - C. Recluse
 - D. Reclusee
18. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence:**
I would rather you go now than wait for the rain.
- A. went
 - B. had gone
 - C. gone
 - D. have gone
19. **Change the following from active to passive:**
The advisory panel might have been overlooking critical discrepancies in the data prior to the audit.
- A. Critical discrepancies in the data might have been being overlooked by the advisory panel prior to the audit.
 - B. Critical discrepancies were being overlooked by the panel prior to the audit.
 - C. Critical discrepancies might have overlooked the panel during the audit.
 - D. Critical discrepancies had been overlooked by the panel during the audit.
20. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

1. Rita turned to her and whined, "I thought I would improve my chess skills by practicing against the computer, but I've already played three games and haven't won ONCE!"
 2. "What are you upset about? What did you lose?" she asked.
 3. "Ugh! I can't believe I lost AGAIN!" Rita growled at her computer screen.
 4. Her younger sister, who had just walked into the room, looked curious.
- A. 3-4-2-1
 - B. 4-3-1-2
 - C. 3-2-4-1
 - D. 4-2-1-3

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

The relationship between Garuda, the divine mount of Lord Vishnu, and Swami Vedanta Desika, one of the most prominent Acharyas in the Sri Vaishnava tradition, is narrated in a discourse by Sri Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar. Just as Garuda serves as the mount transporting the Supreme Lord, Acharyas such as Desika carry the wisdom of the Vedas to ____ (A) (uplift) human beings from worldly binding (samsara). The glory of Garuda is expounded, including his incarnation as the embodiment of the Vedas, and how his grace led to Desika's profound compositions.

Garuda is revered as Vedatma, the soul embodiment of the Vedas. His two wings ____ (B) the Vedic meters and chants. Swami Alavandar beautifully summarises how Garuda performs every form of kinkaryam (selfless divine service) ____ (C) Lord Narayana. Garutman is daasaha: (the devoted servant), sakha (the beloved friend), vahanam (the Lord's divine vehicle), asanam (His seat or throne), dhvajaha: (His flag or banner), and vyajanam (the ceremonial fan used in divine worship).

Desika received the initiation (Upadesam) of the Garuda Mantra from his guru Kidambi Appullar. Desika travelled to Tiruvaheendrapuram and meditated on the Aushadhagiri Hill. Desika chanted the Garuda Mantra, and ____ (D) (pleased) with his devotion, Garuda appeared before him, blessed him by ____ (E) the sacred Hayagreeva Mantra, and presented him with an idol of Lord Hayagreeva (horse-faced deity of knowledge). The divine blessings bestowed on Desika with unmatched eloquence and poetic brilliance, enabling him to compose works in Sanskrit, Prakrit and Tamil.

21. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (A): (uplift).**
 - A. elevate
 - B. hinder
 - C. oppress
 - D. discourage
22. **Fill in blank (B) with the correct present tense verb to maintain subject-verb agreement with the plural noun phrase.**
 - A. symbolises
 - B. symbolise
 - C. symbolising
 - D. symbolised
23. **Fill in blank (C) with the correct preposition to complete the phrase indicating who the service is directed towards.**
 - A. at

- B. on
 - C. to
 - D. over
24. **Choose the antonym of the word in (D): (pleased).**
- A. Gratified
 - B. Delighted
 - C. Displeased
 - D. Thrilled
25. **Fill in blank (E) with the correct present participle (gerund) form of the verb to complete the phrase following the preposition "by".**
- A. bestow
 - B. bestows
 - C. bestowed
 - D. bestowing

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- A) The timing of the treaty during active regional conflicts makes the mutual defense commitment a symbolic gesture rather than a practical preventive measure.

The passage explicitly identifies the primary obstacle and liability of the Mecca Agreement in the second paragraph: "The biggest liability of the Mecca Agreement is that it was signed amid ongoing wars. ... Existing conflicts, therefore, make the promise of collective defence largely symbolic from the very outset." Because deterrence is typically established prior to hostilities, signing a collective defense pact during active, ongoing regional conflicts renders the commitment largely symbolic rather than an effective, practical deterrent.

B – The passage states that the nations signed the pact because they are "looking beyond the traditional U.S. security umbrella," rather than being hindered by a continued reliance on it.

C– Although Pakistan's conflict with India is mentioned, the text does not attribute the agreement's lack of deterrence to Pakistan committing resources to South Asian territorial disputes.

D– The passage lists their differing strengths (financial resources, nuclear power, drone manufacturing) as complementary features of a "formidable alliance on paper" and notes they aim to deepen military interoperability; it does not cite this diversity as a major logistical barrier.
- C) It allows a nation focused on the subcontinent to serve as a regional arbitrator

In the second paragraph, the author highlights the strategic ambitions and potential outcomes for the participating nations: "Pakistan, traditionally a South Asian regional power overshadowed by India, is also seeking to expand its role as a West Asia security provider and mediator." This directly supports option C, since Pakistan (a subcontinental/South Asian power) is described as using the agreement to position itself as a security provider and mediator in West Asia.

1 – The passage states that the collective security pledge "is unlikely to deter Iran" and that its deterrent capability is "currently non-existent" due to active ongoing conflicts.

2 – the agreement is framed as a response to reduced American strategic presence, with regional powers "looking beyond the traditional U.S. security umbrella," not reinforcing America's primary role.

4 – Although NATO and CSTO are referenced as structural examples of collective security alliances, the passage does not state that the agreement replaces global NATO norms.
- D) The trilateral pact will neutralize the missile threats Saudi Arabia currently faces.

The passage explicitly states the opposite: the collective security pledge "is unlikely to deter Iran from targeting U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia if the war... escalates further," and that credible deterrence is "currently non-existent." Nothing in the passage supports the claim that the pact will neutralize existing missile threats; it only expresses uncertainty and skepticism about the agreement's practical effectiveness.

Option A can be inferred — the passage states Saudi Arabia and Türkiye "decided to turn the page on their often fraught relationship" in building this framework, implying prior tension that has now been set aside due to shared strategic anxieties.

Option B can be inferred — the passage notes Pakistan, "traditionally a South Asian regional power overshadowed by India," is "seeking to expand its role as a West Asia security provider and mediator," which implies an attempt to build influence beyond its home region.

Option C can be inferred — the passage links the pact's timing to nations "faced with the prospect of reduced American strategic presence in West Asia" who have "begun looking beyond the traditional U.S. security umbrella for new partnerships."

4. A) an infinitive phrase acting as the direct object of the primary verb

An infinitive phrase consists of the base form of a verb preceded by the word "to" (to turn), along with its complements and modifiers (the page on their often fraught relationship). The main subject of the clause is "They". The main verb (primary verb) is "have decided" (a transitive verb). Transitive verbs require a direct object to answer the question: "Decided what?" "To turn the page..." Therefore, the infinitive phrase functions as a noun acting as the direct object of the verb decided.

option B: A participial phrase starts with a participle (e.g., Turning the page... or Having turned the page...). This phrase begins with an infinitive (to turn).

option C: The word "to" here is an infinitive marker, not a preposition (a preposition is followed by a noun or pronoun, such as to the room). While infinitives can sometimes function adverbially, here it serves directly as the noun-object completing the verb decided.

option D: A clause must contain a subject and a finite verb (e.g., "...that they should turn the page"). An infinitive phrase lacks a distinct subject and finite verb, making it a phrase rather than a clause.

5. D) a commitment whose practical deterrent value is weak from the start

The passage states that "existing conflicts... make the promise of collective defence largely symbolic from the very outset," directly following the point that the pledge "is unlikely to deter Iran from targeting U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia if the war... escalates further." This shows the phrase is used to convey that the agreement's deterrent power is hollow or ineffective right from its signing, because it was made amid active wars rather than during peace — making (d) correct.

A – The passage states that the pact's long-term credibility depends on turning political promises into a real deterrent; it does not claim it automatically gains credibility when threats subside.

B– The passage attributes the pact to changing regional security dynamics and strategic anxieties, not purely to internal or domestic political messaging.

C– The passage never suggests the terms were left "deliberately vague"; rather, the pledge itself is clear ("an attack against one as an attack against all"), but its practical enforcement during active warfare is unconvincing.

6. C) **Mascot** (noun) – symbol, emblem, figurehead, token, talisman. (शुभंकर)

Synonym: **Emblem** (noun) – a heraldic device or symbolic object as a distinctive badge of a nation, **organization**, or family. (प्रतीक / चिन्ह)

- **Milestone** (noun) – breakthrough, landmark, turning-point, achievement. (महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि)

- **Denouement** (noun) – outcome, result, resolution, conclusion, climax. (परिणाम / उपसंहार)
- **Rift** (noun) – split, breach, division, chasm, rupture. (अनबन या दरार)

7. A) A) 2-4-1-3

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे असम के नेशनल पार्क (Kaziranga) का एक सामान्य उदाहरण देकर बात शुरू करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है, और यह किसी भी अस्पष्ट pronoun से शुरू नहीं हो रहा है)।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 2 की बात को काटते हुए "But" (लेकिन) से शुरू होता है। यह बताता है कि Kaziranga के अलावा इसी राज्य (the state) में Manas National Park भी है, जो इस passage का मुख्य विषय (main subject) है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुए शब्द "the National Park" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 में पहली बार पेश किए गए "Manas National Park" को refer करते हैं। यह उसकी लोकेशन और नदी के नाम से जुड़े तथ्य बताता है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "it" सीधे तौर पर इसी नेशनल पार्क को refer करता है और इसके इतिहास (hunting area) से लेकर 1928 में वाइल्डलाइफ सैक्चुररी बनने तक का सफर बताकर इस हिस्से को बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It establishes the geographical context (Assam) and sets up a common expectation (Kaziranga) without needing any outside context. (As requested, it is the exact first line of the source text, avoiding any ambiguous pronouns).
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the word "But" acts as a contrast to the common answer (Kaziranga) given in Sentence 2, introducing the actual main subject of the text: "Manas National Park".
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because the phrase "the National Park" directly refers back to Manas National Park, which was just introduced in Sentence 4. It expands on its geographical location and how it got its name.
- Sentence 3 comes after Sentence 1 because it acts as the conclusion for this block of text. The word "it" directly refers back to the park, detailing its historical background as a hunting area and its eventual declaration as a wildlife sanctuary in 1928, wrapping up the sequence perfectly.

8. A) **Garrulous** (adjective) – excessively talkative, especially about trivial matters. बातूनी, बहुत ज्यादा बोलने वाला।

Synonym: **Talkative** (adjective) – fond of talking; inclined to talk a great deal. बातूनी।

- **Noisy** (adjective) – making a lot of noise; loud. शोरगुल करने वाला। It refers to loudness, not excessive talking.

- **Chatty** (adjective) – fond of chatting; informal and lively in conversation. बातचीत करने वाला। Though close, 'chatty' is informal and does not carry the negative connotation of being excessively talkative.
 - **Sociable** (adjective) – willing to talk and engage in activities with others; friendly. मिलनसार। It refers to being friendly, not to excessive talking.
9. C) **Pound of flesh** (idiom) – a legally or contractually owed debt that is enforced harshly and without mercy, even when doing so causes great harm; something one insists on receiving even though it is cruel or unreasonable to do so. मूल रूप से Shakespeare के नाटक 'The Merchant of Venice' से लिया गया है – एक ऐसी माँग जो कानूनी रूप से सही हो लेकिन क्रूरतापूर्वक की जाए।
10. A) **Reposte** (noun) – a quick, sharp reply or retort; a counterattack. तीखा जवाब, पलटवार।
Antonym: **Endorsement** (noun) – an act of giving one's public approval or support. समर्थन, अनुमोदन। A riposte is a sharp counter-response, while an endorsement is an expression of support – making them opposite in nature.
- **Apology** (noun) – a regretful acknowledgement of an offence or failure. माफ़ी। Not a direct antonym; an apology is a concession, not approval.
 - **Compliment** (noun) – a polite expression of praise or admiration. तारीफ़। While closer to an antonym, it lacks the sense of formal support conveyed by endorsement.
 - **Confirmation** (noun) – the action of confirming something or the state of being confirmed. पुष्टि। This refers to verifying, not approving or supporting.
11. B) The correct spelling is '**Artisan**', which means "a skilled worker who makes things by hand" – दस्तकार, कारीगर।
12. C) The correct spelling of 'Exestentialism' is '**Existentialism**', which means "a philosophical theory that emphasizes individual existence, freedom, and choice" – अस्तित्ववाद।
- **Dialectic** – Correct spelling; meaning the art of investigating or discussing the truth of opinions – द्वंद्ववाद।
 - **Solipsism** – Correct spelling; meaning the view that the self is all that can be known to exist – स्वयंवाद।
 - **Determinism** – Correct spelling; meaning the doctrine that all events are determined completely by previously existing causes – नियतिवाद।
13. A) **Metafiction** – a form of fiction that self-consciously addresses the devices of fiction, often by making the fictional nature of the work apparent to the reader; characters may be aware they are in a story. मेटाफ़िक्शन – वह साहित्यिक तकनीक जिसमें वास्तविकता और कल्पना की सीमा जानबूझकर धुंधली की जाती है।
- **Allegory** – a story with a hidden symbolic meaning; characters represent abstract ideas. यह reality-fiction blur नहीं करता।
 - **Surrealism** – a cultural movement combining realistic imagery with dreamlike or bizarre elements. यह self-referentiality पर आधारित नहीं है।
 - **Parable** – a short moral story, often religious in nature. इसमें characters अपनी fictional nature के प्रति सचेत नहीं होते।
14. B) **Upkeep** (noun) – maintenance, preservation, care, servicing. (रखरखाव)

Antonym: **Depredation** (noun) – plundering, pillage, devastation, ravage, looting. (लूटपाट / विनाश - रखरखाव के विपरीत नष्ट करना)

- **Automation** (noun) – robotics, mechanization, computerization. (स्वचालन)
- **Inequity** (noun) – injustice, unfairness, disparity, bias. (अन्याय)
- **Nuisance** (noun) – annoyance, irritation, bother, pest। बाधा या परेशानी

15. B) 'lasted from a decade' के बदले '**lasted for a decade**' का use होगा क्योंकि समयावधि (duration) बताने के लिए preposition 'for' का प्रयोग होता है, न कि 'from' का; जैसे –

She waited for an hour. / He worked for ten years.

- 'lasted for a decade' will be used instead of 'lasted from a decade' because 'for' is used to express a duration of time, while 'from' indicates a starting point and requires a corresponding 'to' (e.g., from Monday to Friday).

16. C) 'sink in' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "sink in" एक phrasal verb है जिसका अर्थ है किसी बात का मन में उतर जाना या समझ में आना; जैसे –

It took a while for the news to sink in.

- 'sink in' should be used because it is a fixed phrasal verb meaning "to be fully understood or realised", which fits the context of a message failing to be grasped by the audience.

17. C) The correct spelling is '**Recluse**', which means "a person who lives alone and avoids other people" – एकान्तवासी, समाज से दूर रहने वाला व्यक्ति।

18. A) 'you go' के बदले '**went**' का use होगा क्योंकि "would rather" के बाद जब किसी दूसरे subject की बात हो, तो Past Tense (V2) का प्रयोग होता है, भले ही अर्थ present/future का हो; जैसे –

I would rather she stayed at home.

- 'went' should be used because after "would rather + another subject," the subjunctive past tense (V2) is used to express preference about present or future actions.
- 'had gone' – Incorrect; "had gone" is past perfect, used for preference about past actions (e.g., I would rather you had gone yesterday).
- 'gone' – Incorrect; past participle alone cannot follow the subject in this structure.
- 'have gone' – Incorrect; present perfect is not used after "would rather + subject."

19. A) 'The advisory panel might have been overlooking...' का Passive Voice होगा 'Critical discrepancies in the data might have been being overlooked by the advisory panel prior to the audit.' क्योंकि Active voice में tense है "might have been overlooking" (Modal + Perfect Continuous), जिसका Passive बनता है: Object + might have been being + V3 + by + Subject।

- Rule: Modal Perfect Continuous Active: Subject + modal + have been + V-ing → Passive: Object + modal + have been being + V3 + by + Subject.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे रीता (Rita) की झुंझलाहट के साथ कहानी शुरू करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है, जिसमें से कोई शब्द नहीं छोड़ा गया है)।

- Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 में रीता के चिल्लाने (growled) पर होने वाली प्रतिक्रिया (reaction) दिखाता है—उसकी छोटी बहन कमरे में आती है और उसे उत्सुकता (curious) से देखती है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "she" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 में बताई गई "younger sister" को refer करता है, जो उत्सुक होकर अपनी बहन से सवाल पूछती है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "turned to her" सीधे तौर पर सवाल पूछने वाली छोटी बहन को refer करते हैं। रीता मुड़कर अपनी बहन के पूछे गए सवाल (कि वह क्या हार गई) का पूरा जवाब देती है, जिससे यह हिस्सा बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 3 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It directly introduces the scene with Rita expressing her frustration without needing any outside context. (As requested, it is the exact first line of the source text, entirely avoiding any skipped words).
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 3 because it describes the immediate reaction to Rita's outburst in Sentence 3, introducing the "younger sister" who walks in and looks curious.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 because the pronoun "she" directly refers back to the "younger sister" introduced in Sentence 4, who then verbally asks the questions prompted by her curiosity.
- Sentence 1 comes after Sentence 2 because it acts as the conclusion for this specific block of text. The phrase "turned to her" directly refers back to the sister who just asked the question. Rita then provides the answer to what she lost (chess against the computer), wrapping up the sequence perfectly.

21. A) **elevate**

Elevate is the exact synonym for "uplift" in this context. Both words mean to raise to a higher moral, spiritual, or intellectual level. The Acharyas carry Vedic wisdom to raise/uplift human beings from worldly attachment. Hinder means to obstruct or delay. Oppress means to keep someone in hardship and subjection. Discourage means to cause someone to lose confidence or enthusiasm.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ elevate का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning 'ऊँचा उठाना' या 'आध्यात्मिक प्रगति कराना' (uplift) होता है। आचार्य वेदों के ज्ञान से मनुष्यों का उद्धार/उत्थान (elevate) करते हैं। Hinder का मतलब 'बाधा डालना' होता है। Oppress का मतलब 'सताना' या 'दबाव डालना' होता है। Discourage का मतलब 'हतोत्साहित करना' होता है।

22. B) **symbolise**

Symbolise is the correct simple present tense plural verb. The subject of the clause is "His two wings," which is a plural noun phrase. In English grammar, a plural subject strictly requires the base form of the verb without 's' or 'es'. Symbolises is a singular verb. Symbolising is a present participle and cannot serve as the main verb without an auxiliary verb. Symbolised is in the past tense, breaking the general present tense description of Garuda's divine form.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ symbolise का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "His two wings" (उनके दोनों पंख) plural (बहुवचन) है। Present tense में plural subject के साथ verb की base form (बिना s/es) आती है। Symbolises singular subject के लिए होता है। Symbolising बिना helping verb के गलत है। Symbolised past tense है, जो सामान्य विवरण के खिलाफ है।

23. C) to

To is the correct preposition because service (kainkaryam) or devotion is offered or directed towards a person or deity ("service to Lord Narayana"). In standard English grammar, verbs and nouns indicating service, dedication, or duty collocate with the preposition "to". At, on, and over do not express direction of service toward a person/deity.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ to का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि किसी के प्रति सेवा या समर्पण को दर्शाने के लिए हमेशा "to" preposition का ही प्रयोग होता है (service to Lord Narayana - भगवान नारायण के प्रति सेवा)। At, on, और over का प्रयोग सेवा अर्पित करने के संदर्भ में व्याकरण के अनुसार गलत है।

24. C) Displeased

Displeased is the correct choice because the question specifically asks for an antonym (opposite word). "Pleased" means feeling or showing pleasure and satisfaction, so "displeased" (annoyed or dissatisfied) is its direct antonym. Gratified, Delighted, and Thrilled are all direct synonyms of "pleased," making them incorrect for an antonym question.

In Hindi:

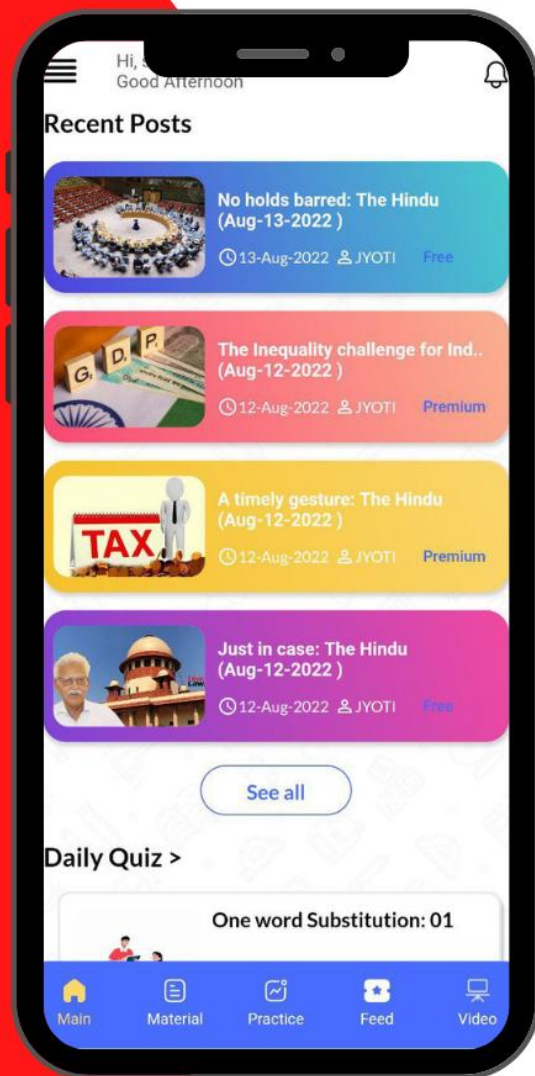
- यहाँ Displeased सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Pleased" का meaning 'प्रसन्न' या 'संतुष्ट' होता है। "Displeased" का meaning 'अप्रसन्न' या 'असंतुष्ट' होता है, जो इसका सीधा विलोम है। Gratified, Delighted, और Thrilled तीनों इसके synonyms (पर्यायवाची) हैं।

25. D) bestowing

Bestowing is the correct present participle/gerund form because it follows the preposition "by". In English grammar, any verb immediately following a preposition (like by, for, about, with) must be in its gerund/'-ing' form (Preposition + Verb-ing). Bestow (base form), bestows (singular present), and bestowed (past tense) violate this fundamental rule of prepositional complementation.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ bestowing का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि अंग्रेजी व्याकरण में किसी भी preposition (जैसे by, for, of) के तुरंत बाद आने वाली verb हमेशा '-ing' form (gerund) में होती है (by + bestowing = प्रदान करके)। Bestow, bestows, और bestowed इस prepositional rule का उल्लंघन करते हैं।



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