

Peace for progress: on the SCO, regional cooperation, the fight against terror

Economic objectives can be **met** only in a **stable** security environment

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's **address** at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Tajikistan, on Tuesday **marks** another **significant** occasion since Operation Sindoor (2025) when India has used the **multilateral** forum to raise the issue of terrorism, including **cross-border** terrorism from Pakistan. He said that regional cooperation cannot be meaningful if countries **approached** terrorism **selectively**. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's presence added **significance** to the **remarks**, **underscoring** New Delhi's **diplomatic** challenge within an organisation whose members have **divergent strategic** interests and security priorities. India has **consistently** argued that terrorism cannot be **divorced** from the broader **agenda** of regional peace, economic **integration** and development. By calling on SCO member-states to **dismantle** the **ecosystem** of terrorism, he **reiterated** that the threat must be **addressed** at its source rather than treated as an **isolated** security challenge. The intervention follows India's **refusal** to **endorse** the joint statement at the 2025 SCO Defence Ministers' meet in Qingdao, China. New Delhi had objected to a draft that failed to **reflect** its concerns over cross-border and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, including the Pahalgam attack (2025), while referring to militant activities in Balochistan. India **maintained** that such an approach would **undermine** the organisation's **credibility** by **overlooking** the threat it had brought before its members.

The SCO has the **potential** to **advance** regional stability, trade and connectivity instead of becoming another source of strategic **friction**. Yet, its **effectiveness** will remain limited if political **disagreements** prevent members from developing a common approach to security threats. India's position is not that cooperation on trade, culture, connectivity and development must be **suspended** until every security dispute is **resolved**. Rather, these objectives cannot be met independently of a stable security environment. Economic **corridors** require **predictable** borders, investors need confidence in the rule of law, and transport networks must be violence- and disruption-free. Connectivity **projects** such as the International North-South Transport Corridor and the development of Chabahar Port **offer** Central Asia connectivity with wider markets. Their long-term **value**, however, **depends** on respect for **sovereignty** and **territorial integrity**, alongside conditions that allow goods, capital and people to move freely. The SCO's challenge is to translate its **stated commitment** to **combating** terrorism into practical cooperation through intelligence-sharing, action against terror financing, disruption of recruitment networks and the **denial** of **safe havens** to terrorist groups. While retaining its principle against terrorism, India should lead efforts to achieve more regional cooperation in tackling it.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Meet** (verb) - fulfill, achieve, accomplish, satisfy, attain पूरा करना
2. **Stable** (adjective) - secure, steady, solid, firm, unfluctuating स्थिर
3. **Address** (noun) - speech, discourse, lecture, talk, oration भाषण
4. **Mark** (verb) - signify, denote, represent, indicate, characterize चिह्नित करना
5. **Significant** (adjective) - important, crucial, vital, momentous, notable महत्वपूर्ण
6. **Multilateral** (adjective) - multipartite, international, collective, collaborative, joint बहुपक्षीय
7. **Cross-border** (adjective) - international, transnational, global, foreign, overseas सीमा पार
8. **Approach** (verb) - address, handle, manage, tackle, treat निपटना
9. **Selectively** (adverb) - carefully, particularly, discriminately, exclusively, specifically चुनिंदा रूप से
10. **Significance** (noun) - importance, relevance, weight, consequence, value महत्व
11. **Remark** (noun) - comment, statement, observation, utterance, declaration टिप्पणी
12. **Underscore** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, underline, accentuate ज़ोर देना
13. **Diplomatic** (adjective) - political, strategic, ambassadorial, tactful, politic कूटनीतिक
14. **Divergent** (adjective) - differing, contrasting, disparate, varying, opposite भिन्न
15. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, planned, crucial, vital रणनीतिक
16. **Consistently** (adverb) - constantly, regularly, steadily, continuously, unfailingly लगातार
17. **Divorce** (verb) - separate, disconnect, detach, sever, dissociate अलग करना
18. **Agenda** (noun) - plan, program, schedule, lineup, itinerary कार्यसूची
19. **Integration** (noun) - unification, consolidation, amalgamation, assimilation, combination एकीकरण
20. **Dismantle** (verb) - destroy, demolish, deconstruct, dismantle, disassemble नष्ट करना
21. **Ecosystem** (noun) - network, environment, system, framework, structure पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
22. **Reiterate** (verb) - repeat, restate, reaffirm, emphasize, recap दोहराना
23. **Address** (verb) - tackle, confront, deal with, handle, resolve निपटना
24. **Isolated** (adjective) - single, standalone, solitary, anomalous, individual अकेला
25. **Refusal** (noun) - rejection, denial, withholding, decline, repudiation इनकार
26. **Endorse** (verb) - support, approve, back, ratify, sanction समर्थन करना

27. **Reflect** (verb) - mirror, show, display, demonstrate, exhibit दर्शाना
28. **Maintain** (verb) - assert, claim, argue, insist, contend दावा करना
29. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, compromise, sabotage, impair, threaten कमज़ोर करना
30. **Credibility** (noun) - reliability, trustworthiness, plausibility, integrity, authority विश्वसनीयता
31. **Overlook** (verb) - ignore, neglect, disregard, miss, bypass अनदेखा करना
32. **Potential** (noun) - capability, capacity, ability, possibility, prospect क्षमता
33. **Advance** (verb) - promote, forward, progress, further, boost आगे बढ़ाना
34. **Friction** (noun) - conflict, discord, disagreement, tension, dispute टकराव
35. **Effectiveness** (noun) - success, efficacy, efficiency, potency, capability प्रभावशीलता
36. **Disagreement** (noun) - dispute, conflict, dissent, divergence, discord असहमति
37. **Suspend** (verb) - halt, pause, delay, defer, postpone निलंबित करना
38. **Resolve** (verb) - settle, solve, conclude, sort, fix सुलझाना
39. **Corridor** (noun) - passage, pathway, route, channel, link गलियारा
40. **Predictable** (adjective) - expected, foreseeable, reliable, anticipated, certain अनुमान लगाने योग्य
41. **Project** (noun) - scheme, plan, program, enterprise, venture परियोजना
42. **Sovereignty** (noun) - autonomy, independence, self-rule, jurisdiction, supremacy संप्रभुता
43. **Territorial** (adjective) - regional, geographical, spatial, land, boundary क्षेत्रीय
44. **Integrity** (noun) - unity, wholeness, cohesion, solidarity, soundness अखंडता
45. **Stated** (adjective) - declared, explicit, expressed, specified, proclaimed घोषित
46. **Commitment** (noun) - dedication, pledge, promise, obligation, vow प्रतिबद्धता
47. **Combat** (verb) - fight, battle, tackle, counter, oppose मुकाबला करना
48. **Denial** (noun) - refusal, withholding, rejection, repudiation, prohibition इनकार या रोक
49. **Safe haven** (noun) - place of refuge or security from danger or attack सुरक्षित आश्रय

Summary of the Editorial

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh used the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Tajikistan to raise the issue of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.
2. This is another occasion since Operation Sindoor (2025) on which India has used a multilateral forum to press the terror issue.
3. He argued that regional cooperation cannot be meaningful if countries treat terrorism selectively.
4. The presence of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar added weight to the remarks and highlighted India's diplomatic challenge in a group whose members have differing strategic interests.
5. India's consistent position is that terrorism cannot be separated from the wider agenda of regional peace, economic integration and development.
6. He called on SCO members to dismantle the ecosystem of terrorism, stressing that the threat must be tackled at its source and not treated as an isolated security problem.
7. The intervention follows India's refusal to endorse the joint statement at the 2025 SCO Defence Ministers' meet in Qingdao, China.
8. India objected because the draft ignored its concerns about Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism, including the Pahalgam attack (2025), while mentioning militant activity in Balochistan.
9. India held that such an approach would damage the SCO's credibility by overlooking a threat brought before its members.
10. The SCO can advance regional stability, trade and connectivity, but its effectiveness stays limited if political differences block a common approach to security threats.
11. India does not say cooperation on trade, culture, connectivity and development should be suspended until every security dispute is settled.
12. Its point is that these goals cannot be achieved independently of a stable security environment.
13. Economic corridors need predictable borders, investors need confidence in the rule of law, and transport networks must be free of violence and disruption.
14. Projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor and Chabahar Port connect Central Asia to wider markets, but their long-term value depends on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and on the free movement of goods, capital and people.
15. The SCO must turn its stated anti-terror commitment into practical action through intelligence-sharing, curbs on terror financing, disruption of recruitment networks and denial of safe havens, and India should lead efforts toward greater regional cooperation on this front.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the passage suggest regarding the relationship between economic integration and regional security?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Sustainable commercial and infrastructural expansion requires predictable, non-violent geopolitical environments.
 - B. Multilateral connectivity pacts must pause until nations resolve all historical borders.
 - C. Constructing cross-border transport routes eliminates underlying sovereign territorial disagreements.
 - D. Economic corridors ensure investment inflows regardless of regional cross-border militancy threats.
2. **What is the author's primary goal in citing the INSTC and Chabahar Port initiatives?**
 - A. To prove that Central Asian markets have rejected maritime integration proposals.
 - B. To illustrate that multilateral energy pipelines supersede ideological disputes between members.
 - C. To demonstrate that strategic trade conduits require respect for territorial sovereignty.
 - D. To show that maritime agreements resolve cross-border terrorism without intelligence sharing.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. Multilateral diplomatic summits should suspend trade discussions until member nations finalize border demarcations.
 - B. Bilateral tensions between founding member states have rendered the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation functionally ineffective.
 - C. Developing international maritime trade corridors resolves sovereign concerns regarding cross-border militant recruitment networks.
 - D. Regional economic development and connectivity cannot flourish without a stable, non-selective security framework.
4. **What is one of the main concerns regarding the operational success of the SCO mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. Strategic friction and selective approaches toward counter-terrorism
 - B. Financial insolvency among developing Central Asian participant countries
 - C. Insufficient maritime access along northern sovereign transport corridors
 - D. Excessive focus on bilateral trade at expense of infrastructure
5. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence from the passage:**
"Countries approached terrorism selectively."
 - A. Terrorism is approached selectively by countries.
 - B. Terrorism was approached selectively by countries.
 - C. Terrorism has been approached selectively by countries.
 - D. Terrorism had been approached selectively by countries.
6. **Select the synonym of Conundrum.**
 - A. Triumph
 - B. Harmony
 - C. Problem
 - D. Celebration
7. **Which word is closest in meaning to inclusion?**

- Kohli's inclusion would give India more balance and depth in the squad.
- A. Addition
 - B. Entry
 - C. Involvement
 - D. Presence
8. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
To have too many irons in the fire
- A. To be very focused
 - B. To be involved in too many activities at once
 - C. To be lazy
 - D. To be a blacksmith
9. **What is the antonym of "Recalcitrant"?**
- A. Defiant
 - B. Disobedient
 - C. Obedient
 - D. Rebellious
10. **Choose the antonym of 'inflate'.**
- A. Expand
 - B. Increase
 - C. Swell
 - D. Reduce
11. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Something that is capable of being accomplished.
- A. Untenable
 - B. Irrevocable
 - C. Eligible
 - D. Feasible
12. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
- A. Obfuscation
 - B. Obfescation
 - C. Obfuscation
 - D. Obfuscasion
13. **Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**
"The chef will prepare the meal by noon."
- A. The meal will be prepared by the chef by noon.
 - B. The chef will be prepared the meal.
 - C. The meal would be prepared by noon.
 - D. The meal will prepared by the chef by noon.
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**
"I will help you," he will say to me.
- A. He says to me that he would help me.
 - B. He will tell me that he will help me.
 - C. He tells me that he helped me.
 - D. He told me that he will help me.

15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The minister was apprised ____ the current situation.

- A. about
- B. at
- C. to
- D. of

16. Fill in the blank with an appropriate degree of comparison.

Hari is _____ than Sohan in solving mathematical problems.

- A. talenest
- B. most talented
- C. talenter
- D. more talented

17. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'

We stayed in home all day and watched movies.

- A. inside
- B. at
- C. into
- D. No substitution

18. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

My brother / had being / cracking jokes.

- A. My brother
- B. had being
- C. No error
- D. cracking jokes

19. Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, and 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.

- 1. Cute as that pronouncement was, there is no denying the fact that having started the journey convincingly with a 5-0 romp in the T20Is (including back-to-back Super Over triumphs), India were brushed aside in the next five matches.
- 2. The last time India travelled to New Zealand for a full tour, Virat Kohli was still the all-format captain and ruling the batting seas in all three versions.
- 3. That was in early 2020 – India played five Twenty20 Internationals, three One-Day Internationals and two Tests between January 29 and March 2 – when, as then head coach Ravi Shastri cheekily (?) pointed out, the tour ended in a 5-5 scoreline.
- 4. Shubman Gill had yet to make his Test debut, masks were associated with privacy (primarily) than health reasons, and the COVID-19 pandemic was just about beginning to send shock waves across the world.

- A. 2-3-4-1
- B. 2-4-3-1
- C. 4-2-3-1
- D. 3-1-2-4

20. **Direction: Rearrange the following five sentences (A, B, C, D, and E) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**

- A. Some progress has since been made, and Wikipedia now acknowledges that this is not true, but that has not silenced WhatsApp University.
- B. Driving back, I reflected on how Avadi, the neighbouring area, would scream from the rooftops if it could speak — that its name is not an acronym for Armoured Vehicles and Ammunition Depot of India.
- C. MacLean helpfully adds, though this may be untrue, that the name evolved from Aa Kudi — a village of cattle — and that it represents the ancient Augoody Naud, an area classification dating back to the Chola times.
- D. Last week, I went to the Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar School in Ambattur to judge an elocution competition on the topic: “If Chennai’s old buildings and streets could speak.”
- E. When it comes to such matters, my go-to resource is always MacLean’s Manual of the Administration of Madras Presidency, 1885, which clearly identifies “Avady” as a railway station nine miles northwest of Sydapett.

- A. D-B-A-E-C
- B. B-D-A-E-C
- C. D-A-B-E-C
- D. B-A-D-E-C

Directions: Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Glass is transparent for two reasons. First, light carries energy in small packets called photons. Electrons in atoms can (1)___ these photons and move from one energy level to another — but (2)___ a photon supplies the right amount of energy.

Ordinary window glass is usually made of silicon dioxide, whose electrons need more energy to move into higher energy states than photons of visible light possess. As a result, most visible-light photons are not absorbed and pass through, making the glass transparent.

However, ultraviolet photons carry more energy and are absorbed by the electrons in glass. So glass is (3)___ to ultraviolet light.

Second, glass has a (4) disordered atomic structure, meaning its atoms don't have a regularly repeating arrangement. (This is unlike in a crystal.) However, this disorder occurs on a scale much smaller than the wavelengths of visible light. As a result, ordinary glass does not (5) scatter much visible light, which travels through.

This is the same reason powdered glass appears white rather than transparent, as each fragment has surfaces that reflect and redirect light. With countless fragments randomly arranged, the light becomes scattered in many directions, preventing us from seeing clearly through the powder.

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

- A. soaks
- B. emit
- C. receptive
- D. absorb

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

- A. only if
- B. if only

- C. unless
 - D. even if
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
- A. blocks
 - B. transparent
 - C. opaque
 - D. darkly
24. **The word "disordered" (4) in the passage is closest in meaning to:**
- A. amorphous
 - B. symmetrical
 - C. crystalline
 - D. pellucid
25. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "scatter" (5) as used in the passage:**
- A. radiate
 - B. focus
 - C. strew
 - D. diffuse

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. A) **Sustainable commercial and infrastructural expansion requires predictable, non-violent geopolitical environments.**

passage: "Rather, these objectives cannot be met independently of a stable security environment. Economic corridors require predictable borders, investors need confidence in the rule of law, and transport networks must be violence- and disruption-free."---The passage says trade and connectivity projects cannot succeed unless the region is secure. Corridors need safe, predictable borders, and transport routes must be free of violence. So business growth depends on a stable and peaceful environment. This matches option A.

- Option B: Incorrect. The option says connectivity pacts must pause until all border issues are settled, but the passage says "India's position is not that cooperation on trade, culture, connectivity and development must be suspended until every security dispute is resolved," hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says building transport routes removes territorial disputes, but the passage says the value of projects like INSTC and Chabahar depends on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, so the routes do not solve disputes by themselves, hence incorrect.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says economic corridors bring investment no matter how bad cross-border militancy is, but the passage says investors need confidence in the rule of law and that corridors need predictable, violence-free conditions, hence incorrect.

2. C) **To demonstrate that strategic trade conduits require respect for territorial sovereignty.**

passage: "Connectivity projects such as the International North-South Transport Corridor and the development of Chabahar Port offer Central Asia connectivity with wider markets. Their long-term value, however, depends on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, alongside conditions that allow goods, capital and people to move freely."---The author names INSTC and Chabahar as examples of trade routes that can link Central Asia to bigger markets. Then the author adds that their long-term value depends on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and on safe, free movement. So these examples support the point that trade routes work only in a secure, respectful environment. This matches option C.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says Central Asian markets have rejected maritime integration proposals, but the passage says these projects "offer Central Asia connectivity with wider markets," which is a benefit and not a rejection, hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says energy pipelines override ideological disputes among members, but the passage never mentions energy pipelines. It speaks of transport corridors and a port, and says their value depends on sovereignty and security, hence incorrect.

- Option D: Incorrect. The option says maritime agreements end cross-border terrorism without intelligence sharing, but the passage says the SCO must fight terrorism through “intelligence-sharing, action against terror financing” and other steps, and never says port projects solve terrorism, hence incorrect.

3. **D) Regional economic development and connectivity cannot flourish without a stable, non-selective security framework.**

passage: “Rather, these objectives cannot be met independently of a stable security environment. Economic corridors require predictable borders, investors need confidence in the rule of law, and transport networks must be violence- and disruption-free.” Also: “regional cooperation cannot be meaningful if countries approached terrorism selectively.”---The title says economic goals can be met only in a stable security environment. The whole passage repeats this. India asks the SCO to treat terrorism the same way for every member, because trade, corridors and investment cannot grow without safety. This matches option D.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says summits should stop trade talks until borders are fixed, but the passage says “India’s position is not that cooperation on trade, culture, connectivity and development must be suspended until every security dispute is resolved,” hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says tensions have made the SCO useless, but the passage says the SCO “has the potential to advance regional stability, trade and connectivity” and its effectiveness is only “limited” if disagreements continue, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says building maritime trade routes solves worries about militant recruitment, but the passage says the SCO must fight terrorism through intelligence-sharing, action on terror financing and denying safe havens, and never says trade routes solve it, hence incorrect.

4. **A) Strategic friction and selective approaches toward counter-terrorism**

passage: “Yet, its effectiveness will remain limited if political disagreements prevent members from developing a common approach to security threats.” Also: “regional cooperation cannot be meaningful if countries approached terrorism selectively.”---The passage says the SCO can do good, but it will stay weak if members disagree and cannot agree on one approach to security threats. India also says cooperation means little if countries treat terrorism selectively, for example by ignoring some attacks while naming others. These are the main worries about the SCO. This matches option (A).

- Option (b): Incorrect. The option says the concern is that Central Asian countries are financially insolvent, but the passage never talks about the money problems of any member country, hence incorrect.
- Option (c): Incorrect. The option says the concern is a lack of maritime access along northern transport corridors, but the passage says the corridors’ value depends on sovereignty and security, and it never says access is lacking, hence incorrect.
- Option (d): Incorrect. The option says the concern is too much focus on bilateral trade over infrastructure, but the passage never says this, and it says India does not want trade and connectivity cooperation to stop, hence incorrect.

5. **B) Terrorism was approached selectively by countries.**

Active Voice Tense: The original sentence "Countries approached terrorism selectively" is in the simple past tense (Subject + V2 + Object).

Passive Voice Rule for Simple Past: Object + was/were + past participle (V3) + by + Subject.

Object (Terrorism) becomes the new subject. Singular past form of the auxiliary verb (was). Past participle of approach (approached). Adverb (selectively) + by the original subject (by countries).

- Option (A): Incorrect. The option says "is approached," which is simple present, but the original sentence uses simple past ("approached"), hence incorrect.
- Option (c): Incorrect. The option says "has been approached," which is present perfect, but the original sentence uses simple past, so the time meaning is changed, hence incorrect.
- Option (D): Incorrect. The option says "had been approached," which is past perfect and means the action happened before another past event, but the original has no such second event, hence incorrect.

6. C) **Conundrum** (noun) – A confusing and difficult problem or question, puzzle, enigma. पहेली, समस्या

Synonym: **Problem** (noun) – A matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with; a question or puzzle requiring a solution. समस्या

- **Triumph** (noun) – A great victory or achievement. विजय, सफलता
- **Harmony** (noun) – Agreement or concord. मेल, सामंजस्य
- **Celebration** (noun) – The action of marking an important event with festivities. उत्सव, जश्न

7. A) **Inclusion** (noun) – The action of including someone or something in a group. शामिल करना

Synonym: **Addition** (noun) – The action of adding someone or something to a group. जोड़ना, सम्मिलन

- **Entry** (noun) – The act of going in. प्रवेश
- **Involvement** (noun) – The fact of taking part. संलिप्तता
- **Presence** (noun) – The state of being present. उपस्थिति

8. B) **To have too many irons in the fire** (idiom) – To be involved in too many activities at once एक साथ बहुत सारे कामों में उलझे रहना

9. C) **Recalcitrant** (adjective) – Having an uncooperative attitude towards authority; stubborn. अवज्ञाकारी, हठी

Antonym: **Obedient** (adjective) – Willing to comply with orders or requests. आज्ञाकारी

- **Defiant** (adjective) – Showing open resistance. उद्दंड
- **Disobedient** (adjective) – Refusing to obey. अवज्ञाकारी
- **Rebellious** (adjective) – Resisting authority. विद्रोही

10. D) **Inflate** (verb) – To fill with air or gas, to make something larger, expand, blow up. फुलाना, बढ़ाना

Antonym: **Reduce** (verb) – To make smaller, decrease, diminish, lessen. कम करना, घटाना

- **Expand** (verb) – To increase in size, volume, or scope. बढ़ाना, फैलाना
- **Increase** (verb) – To become or make greater in size, amount, or degree. बढ़ाना

- **Swell** (verb) – To become larger or rounder in size, typically as a result of pressure from inside. सूजना
11. D) **Feasible** (adjective) – Something that is capable of being accomplished or possible to do easily or conveniently. कुछ ऐसा जो करने योग्य हो या आसानी से या सुविधाजनक रूप से किया जा सके।
- **Untenable** (adjective) – (especially of a position or view) not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection. अस्थिर
 - **Irrevocable** (adjective) – Not able to be changed, reversed, or recovered; final. अपरिवर्तनीय
 - **Eligible** (adjective) – Having the right to do or obtain something; satisfying the appropriate conditions. पात्र
12. A) The correct spelling is '**Obfuscation**' which means "the action of making something unclear, obscure or difficult to understand" अस्पष्ट/भ्रामक बनाना।
13. A) **The meal will be prepared by the chef by noon.**
 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। Active वाक्य में "The chef" Subject है, "will prepare" Verb (Future Simple) है और "the meal" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The meal" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "will be prepared" (Future Simple Passive) में बदला गया और "by the chef" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
 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 transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The chef" (Subject), "will prepare" (Verb in Future Simple), and "the meal" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The meal" (Subject), "will be prepared" (Passive Verb in Future Simple), and "by the chef".
14. B) **He will tell me that he will help me.**
 Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए Reporting Verb "will say to" को "will tell" में बदला जाता है, inverted commas हटाकर "that" लगाया जाता है और Reported Speech के Pronoun में आवश्यक बदलाव किए जाते हैं। यदि Reporting Verb Future Tense ("will say") में हो, तो Reported Speech का Tense नहीं बदलता। इसलिए "I will help you" का "will help" वही रहेगा। Pronoun "I" का मतलब बोलने वाला "He" है, इसलिए "I" की जगह "he" आएगा और "you" का मतलब सुनने वाला (me) है, इसलिए "you" की जगह "me" आएगा। "would help" में Tense बदल गया है, "tells ... helped" में Reporting Verb और Reported Speech दोनों का Tense गलत है और "told ... will help" में Reporting Verb का Tense बदल गया है, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।
 To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb "will say to" is changed to "will tell", the inverted commas are removed and "that" is added, and the pronouns of the reported speech are adjusted as required. If the reporting verb is in the Future Tense ("will say"), the tense of the reported speech does not change. So "will help" in "I will help you" remains unchanged. The pronoun "I" refers to the speaker, "He", so it changes to "he", and "you" refers to the listener (me), so it changes to "me". "Would help" changes the tense, "tells ... helped" is wrong in the tense of both the reporting verb and reported speech, and "told ... will help" changes the tense of the reporting verb, so these options are incorrect.

15. D) **of** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, वाक्य यह बता रहा है कि मंत्री को वर्तमान स्थिति के बारे में सूचित किया गया। यहाँ "The minister was apprised (4) _____ the current situation" में सही प्रिपोज़िशन वही होगी जो किसी को किसी चीज़ के बारे में जानकारी देने का अर्थ दर्शाए। इसलिए, "of" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

'of' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is indicating that the minister was informed about the current situation. Here, in "The minister was apprised (4) _____ the current situation," the correct preposition is the one that conveys the meaning of informing someone about something. Thus, "of" would be the most appropriate choice.

16. D) **'More talented'** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence में दो व्यक्तियों – Hari और Sohan – की तुलना हो रही है। यहाँ "Hari is _____ than Sohan" के माध्यम से यह दर्शाया जा रहा है कि Hari की गणितीय समस्याएँ हल करने की क्षमता Sohan से उच्चतर है। इसलिए, "more talented" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

'More talented' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is comparing two people – Hari and Sohan. Here, through "Hari is _____ than Sohan," it indicates that Hari's ability to solve mathematical problems is higher than Sohan's. Thus, "more talented" would be the most appropriate choice.

17. B) 'in' के बदले **'at'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "at home" एक fixed expression है जिसका अर्थ है "घर पर"; 'home' के साथ 'in' का प्रयोग नहीं होता; जैसे— She stays at home on Sundays. 'at' will be used instead of 'in' because "at home" is a fixed expression; 'home' does not take 'in'; Like— She stays at home on Sundays.

18. B) 'had being' के बदले **'had been'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Perfect Continuous Tense के लिए 'had been' सही है; जैसे— My brother had been working all day. 'had been' will be used instead of 'had being' because for Perfect Continuous Tense, 'had been' is correct; Like— My brother had been working all day.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 paragraph को open करेगा क्योंकि यह primary introductory context set करता है, जो India के New Zealand के last full tour और Virat Kohli की all-format captaincy को introduce करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के ठीक बाद आया और 2-4 का direct connection बनाएगा। Sentence 2 के background को continue करते हुए Sentence 4 उसी time period के details देता है कि Shubman Gill का Test debut नहीं हुआ था और COVID-19 pandemic बस start ही हो रहा था।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा और 4-3 का mandatory pair बनाएगा। Demonstrative phrase "That was in early 2020" सीधे Sentences 2 और 4 के time period को point out करता है और head coach Ravi Shastri के cheeky "5-5 scoreline" statement को introduce करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आकर 3-1 का strong connection बनाएगा। Sentence 3 के Ravi Shastri वाले statement को refer करते हुए Sentence 1 कहता है— "Cute as that pronouncement was..." और reality check देता है कि T20Is 5-0 से जीतने के बाद India next five matches हार गया था।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 opens the sequence as the primary topic sentence, establishing the overarching timeline when India last travelled to New Zealand for a full bilateral tour under Virat Kohli's captaincy.
- Sentence 4 directly continues Sentence 2, listing the contemporaneous background markers of that era: Shubman Gill awaiting his Test debut and the earliest onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4, using the temporal pointer "That was in early 2020" to pin down the exact dates and fixtures of the tour while introducing head coach Ravi Shastri's tongue-in-cheek "5-5" remark.
- Sentence 1 forms an essential mandatory pair (3-1) with Sentence 3, picking up Shastri's quip with the referent phrase "Cute as that pronouncement was..." to provide the sporting reality check: India dominating the T20Is 5-0 before being swept in the remaining ODIs and Tests.

20. A) D-B-A-E-C

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence D paragraph को open करेगा क्योंकि यह primary setting और context introduce करता है—लेखक का Ambattur के स्कूल में "If Chennai's old buildings and streets could speak" topic पर competition judge करने जाना।
- Sentence B Sentence D के ठीक बाद आएगा और D-B का direct connection बनाएगा। Competition के topic से relate करते हुए लेखक driving back के दौरान neighbouring area "Avadi" के नाम को लेकर फैले acronym myth (Armoured Vehicles and Ammunition Depot of India) का reference देता है।
- Sentence A Sentence B को follow करेगा। Sentence B में बताए गए false acronym के संदर्भ में Sentence A कहता है कि Wikipedia अब मानता है कि "this is not true", लेकिन WhatsApp University अभी भी शांत नहीं हुई है।
- Sentence E Sentence A के बाद आकर historical evidence introduce करता है। Myth को counter करने के लिए author अपने go-to resource—MacLean's Manual (1885)—का reference देता है, जो "Avady" को एक railway station identify करता है।
- Sentence C Sentence E के ठीक बाद आकर E-C का mandatory pair बनाएगा। Noun "MacLean" के continuity में Sentence C बताता है कि MacLean के अनुसार यह नाम Chola period के "Aa Kudi" (village of cattle) और ancient "Augoody Naud" से evolve हुआ है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence D opens the paragraph by establishing the foundational narrative context: the author visiting a school in Ambattur to judge an elocution competition themed around personified historical streets.
- Sentence B directly follows Sentence D, bridging the competition topic to the author's return journey and introducing the popular urban myth regarding the name of neighbouring Avadi being an acronym.
- Sentence A follows Sentence B, noting that while Wikipedia has corrected the record ("acknowledges that this is not true"), modern misinformation networks (WhatsApp University) persist in spreading it.

- Sentence E follows Sentence A, pivoting to verified historical documentation by introducing the author's primary source: MacLean's Manual of 1885, which records "Avady" as an existing railway station.
- Sentence C forms an essential mandatory pair (E-C) with Sentence E, maintaining the subject "MacLean" to elaborate on the actual etymology—tracing the name back to Chola-era cattle settlements ("Aa Kudi" / "Augoody Naud").

21. D) **absorb**

Blank (1) needs a base verb after "can," describing what electrons do with incoming photons — take in their energy, since a photon "supplies the right amount of energy" to lift the electron to a higher level. a) soaks: means takes in, close in meaning, but violating the requirement since a modal like "can" is followed by the base form, not the "-s" form; in this sense it would also need "up," as in "soak up." b) emit: means to give out light or energy, violating the requirement since "these photons" are arriving from outside, and a photon that "supplies" energy is being taken in, not sent out. c) receptive: is an adjective meaning willing to receive, close in sense, violating the requirement since an adjective cannot follow the modal "can"; the slot needs a verb. d) absorb: means to take in energy or light, matching electrons taking in a photon's energy and jumping to a higher level — the same word the passage later uses: "most visible-light photons are not absorbed."

Hindi:

Blank (1) में "can" के बाद ऐसा base verb चाहिए जो बताए कि electrons आने वाले photons के साथ क्या करते हैं — उनकी energy अंदर लेते हैं, क्योंकि photon electron को higher level तक ले जाने के लिए "supplies the right amount of energy"। a) soaks: इसका meaning है सोखना, meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "can" जैसे modal के बाद base form आता है, "-s" form नहीं; इस meaning में इसे "up" भी चाहिए, जैसे "soak up"। b) emit: इसका meaning है light या energy बाहर छोड़ना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "these photons" बाहर से आ रहे हैं, और जो photon energy "supplies" करता है, उसकी energy अंदर ली जाती है, बाहर नहीं छोड़ी जाती। c) receptive: यह adjective है जिसका meaning है कुछ लेने को तैयार, sense करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि modal "can" के बाद adjective नहीं आ सकता; यहाँ verb चाहिए। d) absorb: इसका meaning है energy या light को अंदर सोख लेना, जो photon की energy लेकर higher level पर jump करने वाले electrons से match करता है — passage आगे यही word use करता है: "most visible-light photons are not absorbed"।

22. A) **only if**

Blank (2) needs a conjunction stating a strict condition — absorption happens only when a photon carries exactly the right energy — which is why visible light, with too little energy, passes through glass. a) only if: introduces the one condition under which something happens, matching the rule that electrons absorb a photon only when it supplies the right amount of energy. b) if only: uses the same two words in reverse order but expresses a wish, as in "If only the glass blocked glare," violating the requirement since the sentence states a scientific condition, not a wish. c) unless: means "except when," violating the requirement since it reverses the logic, suggesting absorption happens when the right energy is not supplied. d) even if: means "regardless of whether," violating the requirement since it would make the photon's energy irrelevant, while the passage shows the energy decides everything.

Hindi:

Blank (2) में ऐसा conjunction चाहिए जो strict condition बताए — absorption तभी होता है जब photon में ठीक सही energy हो — इसीलिए कम energy वाली visible light glass से पार निकल जाती है। a) only if: यह वो एक condition बताता है जिसमें ही कुछ होता है, जो इस rule से match करता है कि electrons photon को तभी absorb करते हैं जब वो सही amount की energy supply करें। b) if only: इसमें वही दो words उल्टे order में हैं, पर यह wish बताता है, जैसे "If only the glass blocked glare," जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence scientific condition बताता है, wish नहीं। c) unless: इसका meaning है "except when," यानी "जब तक ऐसा ना हो," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह logic उलट देता है, मानो absorption तब होता है जब सही energy supply ना हो। d) even if: इसका meaning है "चाहे ऐसा हो या ना हो," जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे photon की energy irrelevant हो जाएगी, जबकि passage दिखाता है कि energy ही सब तय करती है।

23. C) opaque

Blank (3) needs an adjective after "is" that pairs with "to ultraviolet light," meaning not letting light through, since "However" signals that ultraviolet photons, unlike visible ones, "are absorbed by the electrons in glass." a) blocks: is a verb with the right idea — glass does block ultraviolet light — but violates the requirement since a verb cannot follow "is"; "glass is blocks to ultraviolet light" is ungrammatical. b) transparent: means letting light pass through clearly — the word the passage uses for visible light — violating the requirement since "However" marks a contrast: ultraviolet light is absorbed, not passed through. c) opaque: means not allowing light to pass through, matching glass absorbing ultraviolet photons instead of letting them through. d) darkly: is an adverb linked to darkness, violating the requirement since an adverb cannot follow "is" to describe "glass"; the slot needs an adjective.

Hindi:

Blank (3) में "is" के बाद ऐसा adjective चाहिए जो "to ultraviolet light" के साथ जुड़े और जिसका meaning हो light को पार ना होने देना, क्योंकि "However" बताता है कि ultraviolet photons, visible photons से अलग, "are absorbed by the electrons in glass।" a) blocks: यह verb है जिसका idea सही है — glass सच में ultraviolet light को block करता है — पर violate करता है क्योंकि "is" के बाद verb नहीं आ सकता; "glass is blocks to ultraviolet light" grammar के हिसाब से गलत है। b) transparent: इसका meaning है light को साफ-साफ पार होने देना — यही word passage visible light के लिए use करता है — जो violate करता है क्योंकि "However" contrast दिखाता है: ultraviolet light absorb होती है, पार नहीं होती। c) opaque: इसका meaning है light को पार ना होने देना, जो ultraviolet photons को पार होने देने की जगह absorb करने वाले glass से match करता है। d) darkly: यह अंधेरे से जुड़ा adverb है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "is" के बाद adverb "glass" को describe नहीं कर सकता; यहाँ adjective चाहिए।

24. A) amorphous

"Disordered" describes glass's atomic structure as having no regular, repeating pattern — "unlike in a crystal." a) amorphous: means without a definite shape or regular structure — the scientific term for glass — matching atoms that "don't have a regularly repeating arrangement." b) symmetrical: means balanced and evenly arranged, violating the requirement since it describes order, the opposite of "disordered." c) crystalline: means having atoms in a regular, repeating pattern, like a crystal, violating the requirement since it is the opposite — the passage says glass is "unlike" a crystal. d) pellucid: means very clear and

transparent, which suits glass and makes it tempting, but violates the requirement since it describes how clearly light passes through, not how atoms are arranged.

Hindi:

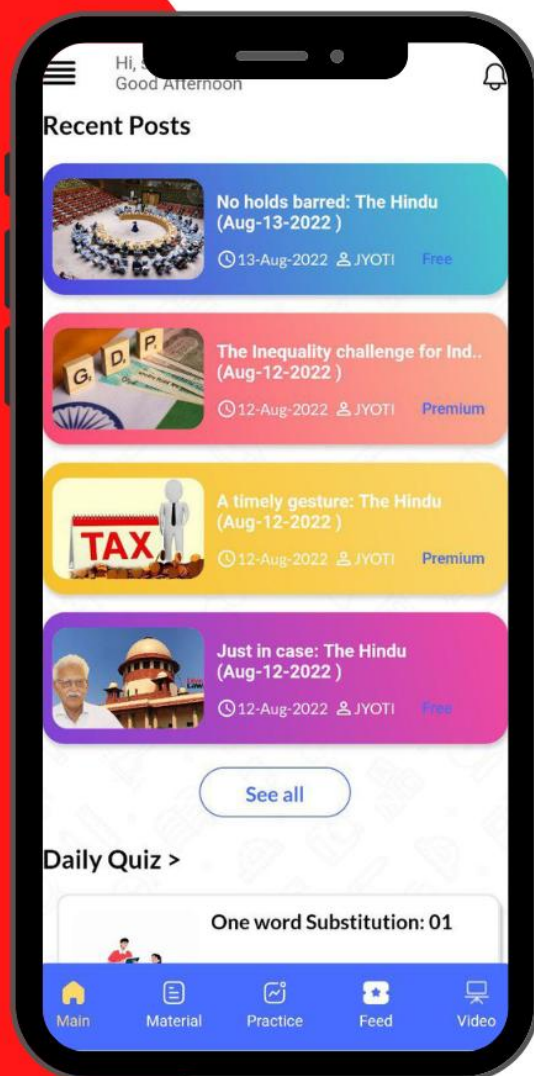
"Disordered" glass के atomic structure को ऐसा बताता है जिसमें कोई regular, बार-बार दोहराया जाने वाला pattern नहीं है — "unlike in a crystal"। a) amorphous: इसका meaning है बिना किसी तय shape या regular structure का — glass के लिए यही scientific term है — जो "don't have a regularly repeating arrangement" वाले atoms से match करता है। b) symmetrical: इसका meaning है balanced और बराबर arranged, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह order बताता है, "disordered" का उल्टा। c) crystalline: इसका meaning है crystal की तरह atoms का regular, repeating pattern में होना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उल्टा है — passage कहता है glass crystal जैसा नहीं है ("unlike")। d) pellucid: इसका meaning है बहुत साफ और transparent, जो glass पर fit लगता है इसलिए tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि light कितनी साफ पार होती है, यह नहीं कि atoms कैसे arranged हैं।

25. B) focus

"Scatter," as used in the passage, means to send light off in many different directions — something ordinary glass largely does not do, but powdered glass does. a) radiate: means to spread out in all directions from a centre, like light from a lamp, violating the requirement since it also describes light spreading outward, not gathering together. b) focus: means to bring light rays together at a single point, as a lens does, matching the opposite of sending light off in many directions. c) strew: means to scatter things untidily over a surface, violating the requirement since it is a near-synonym. d) diffuse: means to spread light out over a wide area, violating the requirement since it is close to "scatter," not opposite.

Hindi:

Passage में "scatter" का meaning है light को कई अलग-अलग directions में भेज देना — जो ordinary glass ज्यादा नहीं करता, पर powdered glass करता है। a) radiate: इसका meaning है किसी center से सभी directions में फैलना, जैसे lamp की light, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी light के बाहर फैलने को बताता है, इकट्ठा होने को नहीं। b) focus: इसका meaning है light की rays को एक point पर इकट्ठा करना, जैसे lens करता है, जो कई directions में light भेजने के उल्टे भाव से match करता है। c) strew: इसका meaning है चीजों को किसी surface पर बिखेर देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह लगभग synonym है। d) diffuse: इसका meaning है light को बड़े area में फैला देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह "scatter" के करीब है, उल्टा नहीं।



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