Grim turn: On targeted killings in Kashmir

The removal of its special status has seen the beginning of fresh challenges in Kashmir

Nine civilians have been killed in targeted killings by militants in the past 22 days in Kashmir, including a Kashmiri Pandit employee, a Hindu schoolteacher from Jammu and a bank manager from Rajasthan. This has triggered a wave of protests in the Valley from the minority communities. Protesting since May 12 when Rahul Bhat, a Pandit employee, was killed in his office, over 4,000 Pandit employees recruited under a special package are on the verge of another migration as in the 1990s. Their leaders say they are contemplating mass exodus and resignations unless relocated outside the Valley. The abominable terrorist violence and the predicament of the Pandits and Hindus denote a grim reversal of all the gains towards peace and reconciliation in the last decade or so. The Valley had welcomed a subtle and slow return of Kashmiri Pandits, a segment of those who left in the face of a surge in violence and targeted killings in the 1990s. Their return was encouraged by the comprehensive policy of then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who in 2008 worked on a strategy: a political outreach to stakeholders of Kashmir’s political spectrum for creating a conducive atmosphere and, at the same time, extending permanent financial support to Pandits willing to return.

The Prime Minister’s Package for Return and Rehabilitation of Kashmir migrants not only offered jobs to Pandit youths but also doled out an initial financial assistance of Rs. 7.5 lakh per family, which was later increased to Rs.20-Rs. 25 lakh — in three instalments for those who settled in the Valley. It is not a mere coincidence that a turn for the worse coincided with the Centre’s new push to alter Kashmir’s relations with India, starting with the termination of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood and special constitutional status in 2019. On December 31, 2020, a Hindu goldsmith was killed; a series of targeted killings of members of the minorities, including Kashmiri Pandits, started from October 6, 2021 when Makhan Lal Bindroo who ran the famous Bindroo Medicate was killed in his shop in Srinagar. Guest workers in the Valley from other parts of the country have also been felled. Policies implemented by the Centre regarding land and government jobs are perceived in Jammu and Kashmir as disadvantageous to locals, increasing the sense of alienation that is being exploited by separatists and Pakistan-backed terrorists. The Centre must take measures to ensure the security of Hindus, and migrant workers in the Valley, at any cost as an immediate response. It must also think afresh its Kashmir policy and create space for political dialogue. It seems the dilution of Article 370 was not the end of the problem but the beginning of fresh challenges in Kashmir, which need careful handling rather than just muscular triumphalism.

[Practice Exercise]

➢ Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’. 
Vocabulary

1. **Grim** (adjective) – dreadful, dire, ghastly, horrible, horrendous भयंकर, विकट
2. **Turn** (noun) – development, incident, occurrence, happening मोड़, घटनाक्रम
3. **Civilian** (noun) – non-military person, non-combatant, ordinary citizen नागरिक
4. **Militant** (noun) – extremist, radical, fanatic, sectarian उग्रवादी
5. **Trigger** (verb) – cause, give rise to, lead to, set in motion, occasion शुरू करना
6. **Wave** (noun) – surge, rush, ripple, spasm लहर
7. **On the verge of** (phrase) – at the point of the something के कगार पर
8. **Migration** (noun) – relocation, resettling, population movement स्थानांतरगमन, प्रवास
9. **Contemplate** (verb) – think about, meditate on, consider, ponder विचार करना
10. **Exodus** (noun) – mass departure, withdrawal, evacuation, leaving, exit निष्क्रमण, कूच
11. **Abominable** (adjective) – loathsome, detestable, hateful, odious, obnoxious, despicable घिनौना
12. **Predicament** (noun) – difficult situation, awkward situation, mess, difficulty, problematic situation, issue कठिन परिस्थिति
13. **Reversal** (noun) – U-turn, alteration, changing, shift उलट, परिवर्तन
14. **Gain** (noun) – progress, improvement प्रगति
15. **Reconciliation** (noun) – restoration of friendly relations, restoration of harmony, agreement, सुलभ, मिलान
16. **Decade** (noun) – A period of ten years दशक
17. **Subtle** (adjective) – delicate, indistinct, tenuous, subdued सूक्ष्म
18. **Segment** (noun) – part, portion, section, constituent, element खंड
19. **In the face of** (phrase) – despite, notwithstanding, regardless of के बावजूद
20. **Surge** (noun) – sudden increase, rise, growth, upswing, upsurge उछाड़
21. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – thorough, full, extensive, all-embracing विस्तृत
22. **Outreach** (noun) – An organization's involvement with or activity in the community, especially in the context of social welfare. पहुंच
23. **Stakeholder** (noun) – A person with an interest or concern in something

24. **Spectrum** (noun) – range, gamut, sweep, scope, span; variety

25. **Conducive** (adjective) – good for, helpful to; favourable, beneficial, valuable, advantageous

26. **Atmosphere** (noun) – conditions, circumstances, setting, context

27. **Extend** (verb) – expand, enlarge, increase, make larger

28. **Willing** (adjective) – ready, prepared, disposed, inclined


30. **Dole out** (phrasal verb) – allocate, allot, apportion, assign, distribute

31. **Assistance** (noun) – help, aid, abettance, support, backing, succour

32. **Mere** (adjective) – no more than, just, only

33. **Coincidence** (noun) – co-occurrence, coexistence, conjunction, simultaneity, simultaneousness

34. **Coincide** (verb) – occur simultaneously, happen together, happen at the same time

35. **Push** (noun) – endeavour, striving, effort

36. **Alter** (verb) – change, make changes to, transform, metamorphose

37. **Termination** (noun) – abortion, cancellation, dissolution

38. **Statehood** (noun) – The status of being a recognized independent nation.

39. **Goldsmith** (noun) – A person who makes gold articles.

40. **Run** (verb) – Be in charge of; manage.

41. **Fell** (verb) – kill, gun down, Knock down.

42. **Perceive** (verb) – look on, view, regard, consider, think of, judge, deem

43. **Disadvantageous** (adjective) – unfavourable, adverse, inauspicious, unpropitious, unfortunate

44. **Alienation** (noun) – isolation, detachment, estrangement, distance, separation,
45. **Exploit** (verb) – take advantage of, make use of, abuse, impose on शोषण करना

46. **Separatist** (noun) – A person who supports the separation of a particular group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender. अलगाववादी

47. **Pakistan-backed** (adjective) – Supported by Pakistan पाकिस्तान समर्थित

48. **Migrant worker** (noun) – A person who moves to another country or area in order to find employment, in particular seasonal or temporary work. प्रवासी कर्मचारी

49. **At any cost** (noun) – regardless of the price to be paid or the effort needed. हर कीमत पर

50. **Afresh** (adverb) – anew, again, over again, once again नए सिरे से

51. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange वार्ता

52. **Dilution** (noun) – The action of making something weaker in force, content, or value. तनूकरण

53. **Muscular** (adjective) – vigorous, robust, strong, powerful, dynamic जोरदार

54. **Triumphalism** (noun) – an unpleasant show of pleasure and satisfaction because you have won or done better than someone विजयवाद

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Practice Exercise

*Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words*

1. Their leaders say they are *contemplating* mass exodus and resignations unless relocated outside the Valley
   A. Anguish
   B. Capitalism
   C. Obsequious
   D. Ponder

2. A political outreach to stakeholders of Kashmir’s political spectrum for creating a *conducive* atmosphere
   A. Beneficial
   B. Enigma
   C. Address
   D. Utilitarian

3. It is not a mere coincidence that a turn for the worse coincided with the Centre’s new push to alter Kashmir’s relations with India, starting with the *termination* of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood and special constitutional status in 2019.
   A. Abortion
   B. Benefactor
   C. Acute
   D. Docile

*Direction (Q4 – Q5): select the appropriate antonym of the given words*

4. The *abominable* terrorist violence and the predicament of the Pandits and Hindus denote a grim reversal of all the gains towards peace and reconciliation in the last decade or so.
   A. Derogatory
   B. Admirable
   C. Indignant
   D. Audacity

5. It seems the *dilution* of Article 370 was not the end of the problem but the beginning of fresh challenges in Kashmir, which need careful handling rather than just muscular triumphalism
   A. Austere
   B. Antithesis
   C. Strengthening
   D. Incorrigible

*Direction (Q6 – Q10): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them*

6. (i). Either of the roads lead to the park.
   (ii). As soon as I shall reach New Delhi I shall send you the file you have asked for.
(iii). If I would have arrived sooner, I would not have missed the fun.
A. (i), (ii), (iii)
B. (ii), (iii)
C. (i), (iii)
D. Only (i)
E. Only (iii)

7. (i). The increase in consumption is directly proportional to the increase in income.
(ii). You will find it difficult to explain of your use of such offensive language.
(iii). Since the two parties each won the same number of seats, the minority party holds the balance of power.
A. (i), (ii)
B. (ii), (iii)
C. (i), (iii)
D. Only (i)
E. Only (iii)

8. (i). Being occupied with important matters he had no leisure to see us.
(ii). He has been working on the problem for a long time but is still not able to solve it.
(iii). When the rules for police and procedures were laid up a lot of grey areas remained.
A. (i), (ii), (iii)
B. (ii), (iii)
C. (i), (iii)
D. Only (i)
E. Only (iii)

9. (i). She was taller than either of her five sisters.
(ii). The company has set off itself some stiff production goals for this year.
(iii). Perhaps you know that I have passed the examination in 1990.
A. (i), (ii), (iii)
B. (ii), (iii)
C. (i), (iii)
D. Only (i)
E. Only (iii)

10. (i). He denied to have been there.
(ii). We know where it begins but we don’t know that where it ends.
(iii). This is the second communication we have sent and we are much surprised at receiving no answer.
A. (i), (ii)
B. (ii), (iii)
C. (i), (iii)
D. Only (i)
11. **Direction:** Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.

*It is not clear what the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) will shape up to be.*

(IPEF vs RCEP – Economics Times : 28 May, 2022)

P. is unlikely to be able to sell tariff reductions to the electorate.
Q. The grouping is a revival of US attempts to create an Indo-Pacific trade bloc - without lowering trade barriers seen as key to keeping jobs at home.
R. Moreover, most of the economies that have signed up for IPEF are also members of the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
S. an orchestra of free trade agreements (FTAs) in the Asia-Pacific that has created the world's largest trade bloc.
T. For one, it will not be a trade bloc because the US, which is proposing this grouping as a counterweight to China's economic dominance in the region,
U. There is clarity, though, on what it will not be.

Which among the following will be the **Last** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

A. S   B. T   C. S   D. R   E. P

**Direction:** In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer

12. I. Manufacturing lifted the industry GVA, growing 9.3% from 2019-20 levels
II. There are cracks on that front — the January to March 2022 quarter (Q4 of 2021-22) recorded a 0.2% contraction, year-on-year.

A. And
B. Then
C. In addition
D. As well as
E. But

13. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiom.**

[The Hindu: Security in Friendship]

The four nations were___________________, and the Quad joint statement called for continued cooperation towards maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific

A. For want of
B. Lending oneself to
C. On the same page
D. In place

14. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiom.**

[The Hindu: Security in Friendship]
At a time when the liberal consensus on globalisation has anyway ________________ and across the Indo-Pacific, there is, post-pandemic, a strong appetite for deepening regional cooperation for trade and investment.

A. Run its course  
B. Remained to be seen  
C. At the forefront  
D. Made allowance for

15. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrasal verb  [The Hindu: Security in Friendship]

Worse, as inflation__________________, households’ consumption growth has steadily dropped through 2021-22, growing a mere 1.8% in Q4.

A. Held up  
B. Stave off  
C. Flared up  
D. Walk out


Global supply chains are __________16________ within RCEP, and a China Plus One strategy could draw some parts of it out. Supply chain resilience is the strongest binding force for IPEF. But it will have to compete for influence with RCEP, a prospect China, which has been excluded by design, has pointed out. Noticeably absent from IPEF is Taiwan, a vital supplier to the global semiconductor industry. India pulled out of RCEP at the last moment over concerns of Chinese dominance. IPEF offers New Delhi the opportunity to plug into manufacturing value chains beyond the shadow of the country’s northern neighbour.The other key area, digital trade, is a __________17________ issue. __________18________ rules for ecommerce and standards on cross-border data flows are unlikely to find favour with India, which has in the past argued for a special __________19________ on account of its development agenda. This is also its stance on clean energy, which IPEF intends to promote through concessional finance. The framework’s anti-corruption __________20________ rounds up the agenda that members of RCEP are not required to adopt.

16. A. Subjugated  
   B. Nested  
   C. Mediated  
   D. Vexed

17. A. Notorious  
   B. Delude  
   C. Thornier  
   D. Impervious

18. A. Decadent  
   B. Cognitive  
   C. Vicarious  
   D. Harmonised

19. A. Touchstone  
   B. Repercussion  
   C. Alloy  
   D. Dispensation

20. A. Predilection  
   B. Plank  
   C. Artifice  
   D. Concord
Answers


Explanations

6. (A)
   i. Use ‘leads’ in place of ‘lead’
   ii. Remove ‘shall’
   iii. Say ‘if I had arrived’

7. (B)
   i. No error
   ii. Remove ‘of’
   iii. ‘have won’ in place of ‘won’

8. (B)
   i. No error
   ii. ‘yet’ in place of ‘still’
   iii. Say ‘laid down’

9. (A)
   i. ‘any one’ in place of ‘either’
   ii. Remove ‘off’
   iii. Delete ‘have’

10. (C)
    i. No error
    ii. Remove ‘that’
    iii. No error

11. UTPQRS
    It is not clear what the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) will shape up to be. There is clarity, though, on what it will not be. For one, it will not be a trade bloc because the US, which is proposing this grouping as a counterweight to China's economic dominance in the region, is unlikely to be able to sell tariff reductions to the electorate. The grouping is a revival of US attempts to create an Indo-Pacific trade bloc - without lowering trade barriers seen as key to keeping jobs at home. Moreover, most of the economies that have signed up for IPEF are also members of the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an orchestra of free trade agreements (FTAs) in the Asia-Pacific that has created the world's largest trade bloc.

12. Manufacturing lifted the industry GVA, growing 9.3% from 2019-20 levels, but there are cracks on that front — the January to March 2022 quarter (Q4 of 2021-22) recorded a 0.2% contraction, year-on-year.
But (conjunction) – used to introduce a phrase or clause contrasting with what has already been mentioned.

13. **On the same page** (phrase) – (of two or more people) in agreement. सहमति
   - For want of (Phrase) – Because of a lack of (something) के अभाव में
   - Lend oneself to (Phrase) – be suitable for, be suited to, be appropriate for के लिए उपयुक्त होना
   - In place (Phrase) – established, arranged, in order, all set स्थापित

14. **Run its course** (phrase) – come to an end, disappear, finish, end समाप्त होना
   - **Remain to be seen** (Phrase) – Used to express the notion that something is not yet known. देखना बाकी है
   - **At the forefront** (Phrase) – in a leading position सबसे आगे
   - **Make allowance for** (Phrase) – excuse, make excuses for, forgive, pardon, overlook, क्षमा देना, मुक्त कर देना

15. **Flare up** (phrasal verb) – erupt or intensify suddenly; भड़क उठना
   - **Hold up** (phrasal verb) – Remain strong or vigorous. अच्छा रहना
   - **Stave off** (Phrasal verb) – avert, prevent, avoid, preclude, rule out, counter, टालना, रोक देना
   - **Walk out** (Phrasal verb) – leave suddenly छोड़ना

16. **Nest** (verb) – to fit one object inside another

17. **Thorny** (adjective) – problematic, tricky, ticklish, delicate, controversial कंटकमय

18. **Harmonised** (adjective) – Coordinated, synchronized, corresponding, matched सामंजस्यपूर्ण

19. **Dispensation** (noun) – Exemption from a rule or usual requirement. छूट

20. **Plank** (noun) – A fundamental point of a political or other program; deal
### Explanation of other important words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.NO</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td><strong>Anguish</strong></td>
<td>noun Agonizing physical or mental pain</td>
<td>पीड़ा, वेदना</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Capitalism</strong></td>
<td>noun Free enterprise; an economic system in which business are owned by private citizen</td>
<td>पूर्जीत्तल, सम्पत्तिवाद</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Obsequious</strong></td>
<td>adjective Fawning; subservient; sucking up to</td>
<td>चापूस, गुलामाना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td><strong>Enigma</strong></td>
<td>noun A mystery</td>
<td>पहेली</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
<td>verb To speak to; to direct one’s attention to</td>
<td>बोलना; संबोधित करना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Utilitarian</strong></td>
<td>adjective stressing usefulness or utility above all other qualities; pragmatic</td>
<td>उपयोगी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td><strong>Benefactor</strong></td>
<td>noun On who provide help, especially in the form of a gift or donation</td>
<td>दान देनेवाला</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Acute</strong></td>
<td>adjective Sharp; shrewd</td>
<td>तीव्र, विकट</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Docile</strong></td>
<td>adjective Easily taught; obedient; easy to handle</td>
<td>विनम, सीधा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td><strong>Derogatory</strong></td>
<td>adjective Disapproving; Degrading</td>
<td>अपमानजनक</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Indignant</strong></td>
<td>adjective Angry; especially as a result of something unjust or unworthy; insulted.</td>
<td>क्रोधित</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Audacity</strong></td>
<td>noun Boldness; reckless daring; impertinence</td>
<td>धृष्टता, साहस, निरंतरता</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td><strong>Austere</strong></td>
<td>adjective Unadorned; Stern; Forbidding; without excess</td>
<td>कठोर, कठटर, कठिन, सीधा-सादा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Antithesis</strong></td>
<td>noun The direct opposite</td>
<td>विलोम, प्रतिपक्ष</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Incorrigible</strong></td>
<td>adjective Incapable of being reformed</td>
<td>असंशोधनीय</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q16</td>
<td><strong>Subjugate</strong></td>
<td>verb To subdue and dominate; to enslave</td>
<td>वश में करना</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mediate</strong></td>
<td>verb To help settle difference</td>
<td>मध्यस्थ</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Vex</strong></td>
<td>verb To annoy; to pester; to confuse</td>
<td>लंग करना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q17</td>
<td><strong>Notorious</strong></td>
<td>adjective Famous for something bad</td>
<td>कुख्यात</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Delude</strong></td>
<td>adjective To deceive</td>
<td>धोखा देना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impervious</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Not allowing anything to pass</td>
<td>अभेद्य, अप्रवेश्य</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q18 Decadent</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Decaying or declared, especially in terms of morals</td>
<td>अवनति का, पतनशील</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Dealing with how we know the world around us through our sense; mental</td>
<td>संज्ञानात्मक</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicarious</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Experienced performed or suffered through someone else; living through the experience of another as though they were one’s own experience.</td>
<td>उपलियुक्त</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q19 Touchstone</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>A standard; a test of authenticity or quality</td>
<td>प्रामाणिकता या गुणवत्ता का परीक्षण</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repercussion</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>A consequence; an indirect effect</td>
<td>प्रतिक्रिया, प्रतिप्रभाव</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alloy</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>A combination of two or more things, usually metals</td>
<td>मिश्र धातु</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q20 Predilection</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>Natural preferences for something</td>
<td>बुकाव</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artifice</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>A clever trick; cunning</td>
<td>चालाकी, युक्ति</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>Harmony; agreement</td>
<td>सामंजस्त्य</td>
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</tbody>
</table>