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JULY**

EDITORIAL

ANALYSIS

READING

GRAMMAR

VOCAB

WITH **MCQs**

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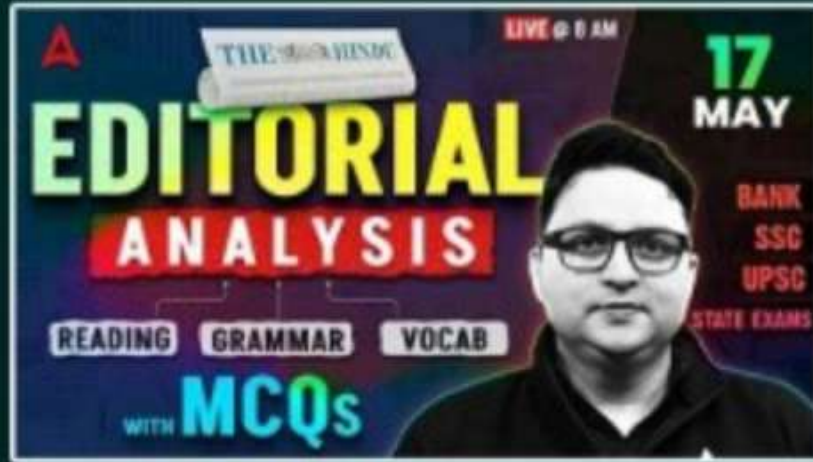
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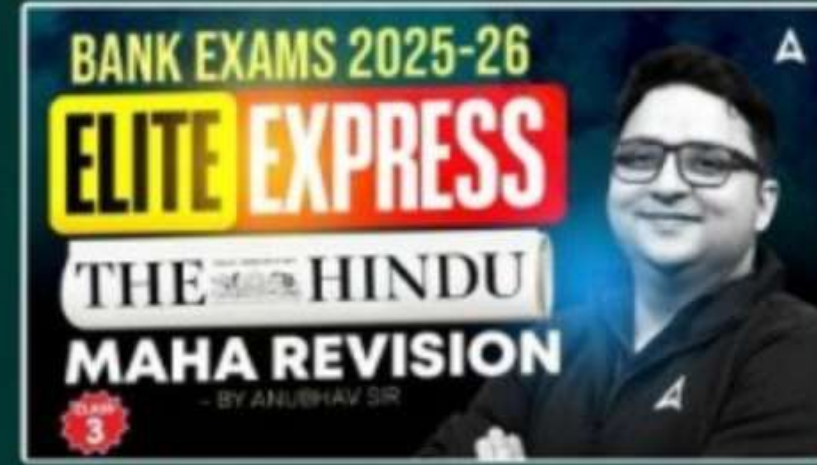
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MAHA REVISION
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ENGLISH

with Descriptive - New Syllabus



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ACTION PLAN

BY ANUBHAV SIR

JULY 1 - AUG 15



English Simplified : Newspaper से नौकरी तक

**READING**

Let's be honest—when it comes to English for competitive exams, reading isn't just important... it's everything. Nearly half of the questions—directly or indirectly—are based on how well you read. But don't worry, you don't have to become a speed-reader overnight. What you need is smart, consistent reading. That's why I've picked real, relevant content from daily newspapers just for you. It'll train your mind to think, understand, and respond faster. Every passage you read here brings you a step closer to confidence and clarity. Nail this, and you've already won half the battle.

VOCABULARY

I know vocabulary can feel overwhelming sometimes—so many words, so little time. But here's the truth: it doesn't have to be that way. This section is designed to help you truly connect with words—not just memorize them. You'll learn them in context, understand how they're used in real life, and slowly start to own them. Everything you see here is from actual newspapers, so it's relevant, real, and reliable. Over time, you'll notice something beautiful—you won't just remember the words, you'll feel them. And that changes everything.

GRAMMAR

Grammar... it has a bit of a reputation, right? Too many rules, too many exceptions. But here's the thing: grammar doesn't have to be dry or confusing. In fact, it can be one of the most empowering tools you have. We're not going to cram rules—we're going to understand them, together. All examples come from real newspaper content, so you'll see how grammar actually works in real life. Slowly, patterns will start to click. You'll begin spotting mistakes naturally, understanding structure intuitively. That's grammar stops being scary and starts being your silent support system.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

Idioms and phrases—those little expressions that often confuse us in the exam—don't worry, we've got this. I've picked the ones you'll actually come across in exams, pulled straight from daily newspapers. But more importantly, I'll help you understand them in a way that sticks. Not by rote, but through real context and simple meaning. Over time, these phrases will become second nature to you, and you'll be able to use and spot them effortlessly. It's one of those small things that makes a big difference.

When pigs fly**DESCRIPTIVE WRITING**

Descriptive writing is where your preparation meets your personality. It's not just about grammar or structure—it's about how you think, how you feel, and how clearly you express that. Whether you're writing an essay, a précis, or a report, I'll help you shape your thoughts with clarity and purpose. All the topics we'll work on come from current news, so your writing stays fresh, relevant, and impactful. And here's my promise—you'll never feel lost staring at a blank page again. Together, we'll build your voice, one word at a time.

**ELITE EXPRESS****READING COMPREHENSION**

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions

**US-China climbdown in trade war – a welcome pause**

The United States and the People's Republic of China have announced a pause in the ongoing trade war between the two countries. The announcement came after two days of high-level negotiations in Geneva. The two economies have been locked in a tariff war since February 1, when US President Donald Trump imposed a 10 per cent tariff on China, as well as 25 per cent each on Mexico and Canada, citing the sale of fentanyl in the US. Reportedly, in the US, in 2021, deaths due to overdose of opioids surpassed 1,00,000, with 67 per cent of those deaths involving fentanyl. But Trump wanted to slap tariffs for other reasons as well, such as the US's large trade deficit vis-à-vis the rest of the world and the loss of manufacturing industry inside the US. For its part, China started retaliating with counter-tariffs of its own. This process escalated quickly after Trump's announcement of reciprocal tariffs on April 2. By April 10, the situation had worsened to a point where the US had imposed 145 per cent tariffs on China and China had retaliated with 125 per cent tariffs on the US.



TAX





DIATRIBE

अभियोगात्मक भाषण

a long angry speech or scolding

Noun

SYNONYMS

Fulmination

- Tirade
- Jeremiad
- Rant
- Sermon
- Denunciation

Harangue

ANTONYMS

- Eulogy
- Encomium
- Citation
- Panegyric

Praise
Accolades

Commendation
Acclaim

FORMS

VocabAhead

Noun

**Diatribes**

A harsh verbal attack, sharp criticism or rant

Instead of offering a diatribe, she chose to deliver sincere _____ for their efforts.



FACILITATE

सुगम बनाना

to help something happen smoothly. ✓

SYNONYMS

- Expedite ✓
- Foster ✓
- Assist ✓
- Promote ✓

~~Abetment~~

Aid ✓

ANTONYMS

- Hinder ✓
- Impede ✓
- Thwart ✓
- Obstruct ✓

Veg Hindrance
14

Impediment

Obstruction

Retard Bottleneck



FORMS

Noun-(facilitation)

While bureaucracy can _____ progress, transparent policies facilitate development.



CASCADE

व्यापक

(Noun)

To flow or fall in large quantities; to pour downward rapidly.

SYNONYMS

- Torrent ✓
- Surge ✓
- Deluge ✓
- Sequence ✓

Abundance

Multitude
Plenitude

Barrage
Plethora
Myriad

ANTONYMS

- Tickle ✓
- Halt ✓
- Drip ✓
- Block ✓



FORMS

Verb-(cascade)

Information about the policy quickly _____ through social media.



STARK

कठोर

Complete, absolute, or extreme in degree.

SYNONYMS

- Austere
- Severe
- Stern
- Bleak

Grim

ANTONYMS

- Bland
- Meek
- Mellow
- Benign

Dull

Mundane



FORMS

Noun-(starkness)

They faced the _____ reality of their financial situation.



CADENCE

ताल (Noun)

A rhythmic flow of sounds or words; the rise and fall of the voice in speech.

SYNONYMS

- Intonation ✓
- Modulation ✓
- Beat ✓
- Tempo ✓

ANTONYMS

- Discord ✓
- Dissonance ✓
- Monotony ✓
- Irregularity ✓



FORMS

His voice had a calming _____ that reassured everyone.



COALESCE

संगठित होना (verb)

to come together to form a single unit

SYNONYMS

- Associate ✓
- Amalgamate ✓
- Integrate ✓
- Consolidate ✓

Merge
blend

ANTONYMS

- Fragment ✓
- Scatter ✓
- Separate ✓
- Disperse ✓

Consensus

Coalition



FORMS

Noun-(coalescence)

The _____ of technology and education has transformed learning.



EMOLLIENT

कम करनेवाला

to come together to form a single unit

SYNONYMS

- Mitigate
- Conciliatory
- Placid
- Lenient

Mollify

Soothe

Seren

Tranquil

ANTONYMS

- Abrasive
- Irritant
- Inflammatory
- Harsh



FORMS

Noun-(emollient)

Apply this _____ twice a day to relieve the irritation.



FECUND

producing abundantly

उपजाऊ

SYNONYMS

- Prolific ✓
- Fertile ✓
- Luxuriant ✓
- Lush ✓

ANTONYMS

- Barren ✓
- Sterile ✓
- Impotent ✓
- Meager ✓



FORMS

Noun-(fecundity)

His _____ mind generated ideas that revolutionized the industry.



ILLICIT

अवैध

contrary to or forbidden by law

SYNONYMS

- Felonious ✓
- Clandestine ✓
- Prohibited ✓
- Forbidden ✓

ANTONYMS

- Permitted ✓
- Authorized ✓
- Legitimate ✓
- Legal ✓

FORMS



The documents were _____ obtained from the government archives.



COMPUNCTION

पछतावा

(11)

an uneasy feeling about the rightness of what one is doing or going to do

SYNONYMS

- Scruple
- Remorse
- Qualm
- Skepticism

Regret

Contribution

ANTONYMS

- Conviction ✓
- Certitude ✓
- Aplomb ✓
- Assurance ✓

I'M SORRY!



FORMS

She signed the contract without the slightest _____.



EXTOL

to proclaim the glory of

प्रशंसा करना

Ver 6

SYNONYMS

- Applaud
- Eulogize
- Commend
- Acclaim

laud

ANTONYMS

- Condemn
- Disparage
- Denounce
- Criticize

Consume
Reprimand
Decrie

FORMS



Many leaders _____ the importance of transparency in governance.



Tumble out:

English Meaning: To fall out suddenly and in a messy or uncontrolled way.

Hindi Meaning: अचानक गिर जाना या बाहर आ जाना, आमतौर पर अस्त-व्यस्त तरीके से।

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To sit on the fence:

English Meaning: To avoid making a decision or taking sides in a dispute or issue.

Hindi Meaning: किसी बात पर निर्णय न लेना या किसी पक्ष में न खड़े होना, तटस्थ रहना।

Albatross around India's neck: *Someone's*

English Meaning: A big burden, problem, or guilt that keeps causing trouble and is difficult to get rid of.

Hindi Meaning: भारत के गले में पड़ा बोझ या भारी समस्या, जो लगातार मुश्किलें खड़ी कर रही हो और जिससे छुटकारा पाना कठिन हो।

Bandied about: ✓

English Meaning: To discuss, mention, or spread something (like an idea, name, or rumor) repeatedly and carelessly, often without checking if it is true.

Hindi Meaning: किसी बात या अफवाह को बार-बार इधर-उधर फैलाना या चर्चा करना, बिना पुष्टि किए।
(किसी विषय का हवा में उछाला जाना।) रहना।

30. Equi (equal): समान

Equivocal = purposely ~~vague~~, ambiguous, susceptible

Equality = par

Equidistant = The same distance apart at every point

Equinox ✓ = Either of two times of the year when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator and day and night are of equal length

Equanimity = composure ~~/~~ calmness

Equilibrium = A stable situation in which forces cancel one another

As India marks eight years since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017, it is worth reflecting on this landmark reform. GST replaced a multiplicity of indirect taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duties, and service tax, establishing a unified national market under the "One Nation, One Tax" framework. The reform harmonised tax rates across States, enhanced ease of doing business, and **facilitated** greater economic integration. Economically, GST has been a consistent contributor to national revenue. Gross GST collections in 2024–25 reached a record ₹22.08 lakh crore, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 9.4%. Beyond revenue generation, GST has advanced economic efficiency. The elimination of **cascading** taxes through the input tax credit system has reduced production costs, benefiting both businesses and consumers. Compliance has improved through digitised processes, which include e-way bills, simplifying tax administration and curbing evasion. However, this progress is accompanied by notable shortcomings, particularly in the realm of public health, specifically tobacco taxation. Tobacco use continues to pose a severe public health threat in India, causing over 3,500 deaths daily and incurring an economic burden of ₹2,340 billion annually (1.4% of GDP in 2017)—a figure far exceeding the ₹551 billion GST revenue generated from tobacco annually, on average, in the past five years. *avg*

Taxation is globally recognised as one of the most effective instruments to reduce tobacco use. Yet, since the introduction of GST, there have been no significant tax increases on tobacco products. This stands in stark contrast to the pre-GST period (2009–17), when regular increases in excise and VAT contributed to a 17% decline in tobacco-use prevalence. A stagnation in tax Post-GST risks undermining past public health gains due to the increasing affordability of tobacco products. Currently, the overall tax burden on tobacco products remains well below the World Health Organization recommendation of 75% of the retail price: 22% for bidis, 54% for cigarettes, and 65% for smokeless tobacco.

An urgent concern is the potential expiration of the GST compensation cess in March 2026, which constitutes a substantial share of total tobacco taxes (nearly 50% for cigarettes). Its removal would significantly reduce tax burdens and render tobacco products more affordable, undermining health policy objectives.

Raising GST rates on tobacco products to the peak rate of 40%, as permitted in the GST law, alongside the enhancement of specific excise taxes, would be a very effective dual strategy.

The tobacco industry frequently argues that higher taxes drive illicit trade. However, independent peer-reviewed studies estimate that illicit cigarettes constitute only 2.7% to 6.6% of the market in India—substantially lower than the industry's claim of 25%. Research shows that tax increases have a limited effect on illicit trade.

Instead, governance quality, regulatory strength, and enforcement capacity are more decisive factors. India has ratified the World Health Organization Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and must now prioritize its implementation to prevent leakages.

As the GST Council undertakes deliberations on rate rationalisation and structural reform, it is imperative that public health considerations are given due priority. The Parliamentary Standing Committee, in its 139th Report (September 2022), highlighted that tobacco products in India remain among the most affordable globally and stressed the critical need to enhance taxation on these products. Increasing GST rates to the statutory peak of 40%, alongside a substantial increase in specific excise duties, would serve the dual objectives of reducing the health and economic burden associated with tobacco use and strengthening fiscal consolidation.

10 5/10 6 4 9/10

Pattern 1 – Logical Completion Question

Which of the following would most logically complete the author's argument in favor of tobacco tax reform?

- A. The GST structure should exclude health-harming commodities
- B. India should completely ban tobacco production
- C. Increasing tobacco taxes alone is insufficient without international trade reform
- D. Fiscal and health outcomes can both be achieved through higher tobacco taxation
- E. The tobacco industry should be compensated for tax-related losses

Pattern 2 – Vocab Based Questions

What is the most contextually appropriate meaning of the word “**stagnation**” in the phrase *“A stagnation in tax Post-GST risks undermining past public health gains”*?

- A. A temporary pause in regulatory intervention
- B. A standstill or lack of meaningful progression
- C. A recalibration of existing fiscal mechanisms
- D. A cyclical shift in policy execution
- E. A systematic review of earlier taxation models

Pattern 3 Logical Completion Question

Based on the passage, the likely consequence of not extending the GST compensation cess beyond 2026 would be:

- A. Decreased central revenue but more autonomy for states in health matters
- B. A structural correction in the GST regime
- C. A further decline in tobacco usage due to market correction
- ☒ D. A lowered overall tax burden on cigarettes, potentially boosting affordability - ✓
- E. The elimination of cascading tax effects on sin goods

Pattern 4 – Logical Arrangement Question

Which of the following most logically completes the author's argument?

- A. Consequently, an increase in both GST rate and specific excise duty on tobacco is necessary.
- B. Therefore, regulating advertising may prove more effective than taxing tobacco under the current regime.
- C. Hence, GST-related tobacco tax revenue should be diverted toward cancer research initiatives.
- D. As a result, states should be allowed to independently levy tobacco-related cess beyond GST purview.
- E. This implies tobacco consumption is independent of taxation trends and driven solely by addiction.

Pattern 5 – Logical Reasoning – Implicit Assumption

Which statement, if true, would **weaken** the author's argument that raising tobacco taxes will curb usage?

- A. Tobacco consumption rates have fallen in countries with flat tax rates.
- B. India's per capita tobacco spending is lowest among BRICS nations.
- C. Consumer behavior in India is not price-sensitive for addictive goods.
- D. Pre-GST taxes were often evaded due to interstate differences.
- E. WHO protocols have not yet been formally accepted by all member nations.

Pattern 6 – Logical Reasoning – Implicit Assumption

According to the passage, which form of tobacco is **most likely** to be under-taxed relative to WHO's recommendation?

- A. Smokeless tobacco, because its tax burden is below 50%
- B. Cigarettes, as they form the largest share of illicit trade
- C. Bidis, due to their significantly low tax incidence of 22%
- D. All tobacco products equally, since tax gaps are uniform
- E. Cigarettes, given their GST-related cess is the lowest among all categories

India's foreign policy is currently facing an existential crisis. The second term of the Trump administration, which had previously been welcomed by India, has upset India's carefully crafted foreign policy. The recent India-Pakistan conflict should also be viewed as a 'wakeup call'. As details of the extent of China's military connections to Pakistan and of equipment transfer **tumble out**, India must take notice.

India has tried, not very successfully, to sit on the fence as far as the current Israel-Iran war is concerned, but it probably needs to think through what is best in its interest. The stakes have become higher with the United States involving itself directly in the Israel-Iran conflict, which saw it using, for the first time, its GBU-57 bunker buster bomb to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and another embedded nuclear site. Neutrality is no longer an option, and despite the announcement of a ceasefire, the possibility of an all-out war is a distinct possibility. Hence, the question that India needs to answer is whether it can continue to keep up its stance of neutrality. India's professed leadership of the Global South and its patronage of nations across West Asia brought it no dividends during the recent India-Pakistan conflict. Instead, India has since been reminded — if this was needed — that it confronts two hostile nuclear powers in its neighbourhood, both of whom would have no moral compunctions in utilising nuclear weapons, if the opportunity arose.

Hence, India cannot, any longer, afford to believe that its current policies are bearing fruit. Donald Trump's 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) policies are today adversely impacting India at levels other than just trade and economics.

The Israel-Iran conflict is yet another situation in which India finds itself as an 'outlier'. 'Neutrality', in the compelling circumstances of today, is out of sync with reality as also the situation on the ground. India's tilt towards Israel in recent times, it would appear, has become something of an **albatross around India's neck**. India's Iran policy today has few takers beyond India's borders. Its policy of maintaining an equidistance between Israel and Iran has proved to be of little use in so far as **extolling** the virtues of non-alignment are concerned.

Hence, it would be wise in the circumstances for India to prepare for future eventualities of every kind. To start with, there needs to be a detailed study of the growing China-Pakistan military connection as the India-Pakistan conflict in May this year has merely hit the 'pause button'. As a part of its preparations for a future conflict, India would also do well to examine whether it has the necessary **wherewithal** for conflicts of longer durations. For India to prepare for a two front war, it should, apart from learning lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, refine its policies on many such aspects as well. Undoubtedly, Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be a national priority.

To conclude, it might bear mentioning that if China intends to reinforce its strategic objectives in Asia, specially in South Asia, the criticality of its alliance with Pakistan to encircle India must not be underestimated. Also at a time, when the 'N word' is being openly banded about, India must reckon with the fact that China has more than a 3:1 advantage over India in terms of deploying nuclear warheads, and an almost 5:1 advantage if the nuclear warheads of China and Pakistan are combined.

1:5

Pattern 7 : Inference Based

Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage regarding India's traditional policy of neutrality?

- A. It has bolstered India's ties with both Israel and Iran equally.
- B. It has served India well in balancing strategic alliances in the past.
- C. It has become counterproductive in the evolving global strategic landscape.
- D. It continues to be a valuable diplomatic stance for global leadership.
- E. It has successfully prevented India from being entangled in regional conflicts.

Pattern 8 Tone Based Question

The overall tone of the author in the passage can best be described as:

- A. Celebratory and nationalistic
- B. Detached and analytical
- C. Sarcastic and humorous
- D. Cautionary and realistic
- E. Optimistic and strategic

Mood

Pattern 9 – Fill in the Blanks

India's policy of maintaining equidistance between Israel and Iran has _____ in the context of current geopolitical realignments.

- A. won it credibility as a regional mediator
- B. enhanced its strategic depth in West Asia
- C. increasingly lost its strategic and diplomatic relevance
- D. strengthened its non-alignment credentials
- E. created more opportunities for global intervention

Pattern 10 – Grammar Based Question

Identify the grammatically correct sentence based on the context of the passage:

- A. India, who has always maintained neutrality, ~~are~~^{Op} now being forced to reconsider its position.
- B. India's leadership of the Global South ~~have~~^{has} not brought any tangible diplomatic gains in recent conflicts.
- C. The United States, along with its allies, ~~have~~^{has} decided to intervene militarily in the Israel-Iran conflict.
- D. Despite being surrounded by hostile neighbours, India ~~continues~~^{continue} to believe its current policies are effective.
- E. China's and Pakistan's military alliance demonstrate how regional geopolitics ~~have~~^{has} turned decisively in their favour.

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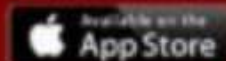
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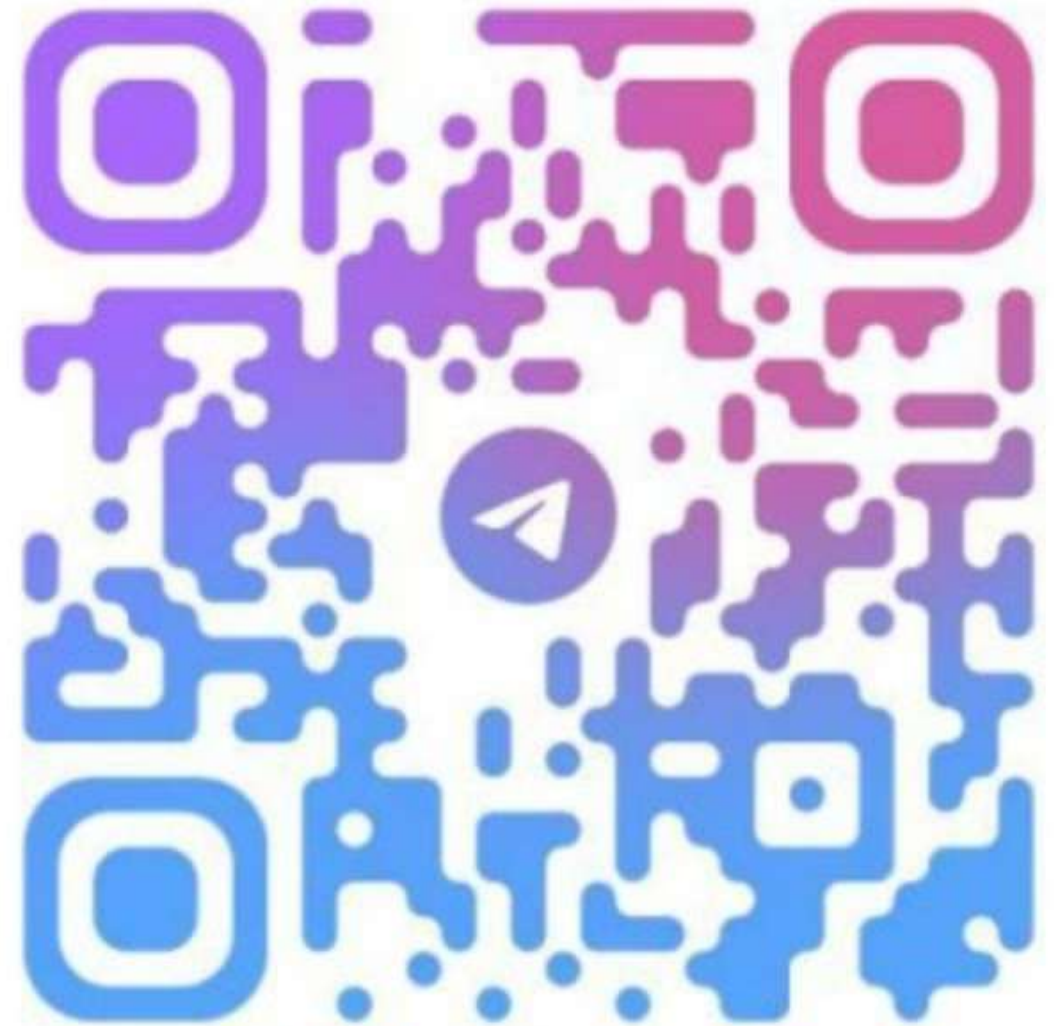
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