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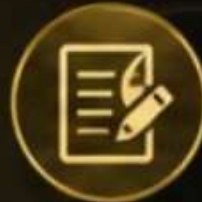
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INDELIBLE

impossible to erase or forget

अमिट (Aaj)



SYNONYMS

Permanent ✓
Enduring ✓
Lasting ✓
Immutable ✓

Eternal ✓
Engrained ✓
Lingering ✓
Imperishable ✓
Unjading ✓

ANTONYMS

Erasable ✓
Fleeting ✓
Ephemeral ✓
Temporary ✓

Transient ✓
Evanascent ✓
Mutable ✓
Vanishing ✓

FORMS

Etched in memory ✓
Leave an everlasting mark ✓

The freedom movement left an _____ impact on the nation's collective memory.



VILIPEND

regard or treat with contempt

तिरस्कार करना (Verb)
Insult

vilipend

verb [vil-uh-pend]

to regard or treat as of little value or account.

SYNONYMS

Contempt

Decry

Scorn

Deride

Ridicule

Revile

Denigrate ✓

Disparage ✓

Vilify ✓

Belittle ✓

Deprecate

ANTONYMS

Acclaim

Laud

Eulogize

Esteem ✓

Revere ✓

Venerate ✓

Exalt ✓

FORMS

Look down one's nose at ✓
Drag through the mud

The scholar came to be widely vilipended for her contribution to constitutional studies.



FEROCITY

क्रूरता Noun

savage intensity or violence

Viciousness

Prosecution

Barbarity

Altruism

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

Brutality ✓

Savagery ✓

Fervor ✓

Vehemence ✓

Enthusiasm

Rage

Fury

Gentleness ✓

Leniency ✓

Mildness ✓

Clemency ✓

Amnesty ✓

Compassion

Empathy

Tenderness

Benevolence

FORMS

Fight tooth and nail
Like a raging bull



The army responded with unexpected _____ during the border conflict.



EXCOGITATE

गहराई से विचार करना *Verb*

think out meticulously



Meditate

Skim

SYNONYMS

Ponder

ANTONYMS

Stumble

Deliberate ✓

Formulate ✓

Devise ✓

Conceptualize ✓

Innovate

Contemplate

Cerebrate

Contrive

Ignore ✓

Overlook ✓

Neglect ✓

Disregard ✓

Miscalculate

Guess

Recognize

Incosnizant

Cognitive

FORMS

Put on one's thinking cap
Rack one's brains

Scientists spent years trying to _____ a sustainable energy solution.



CALLOUS

कठोर

(Aad)

emotionally hardened and insensitive



SYNONYMS

Stoic

ANTONYMS

Considerate

Unfeeling ✓

Inhuman

Compassionate ✓

Merciful

Insensate ✓

Cruel

Humane ✓

Benevolent

Heartless ✓

Ruthless

Empathetic ✓

Altruistic

Pitiless ✓

Remorseless

Sympathetic ✓

FORMS

Cold as stone ✓

Hard-hearted to the core ✓

The doctor remained deeply _____ toward economically weaker patients.



PROPITIATE

तुष्ट करना (Verb)

appease or win favor

Calm

SYNONYMS

- Appease ✓
- Mollify ✓
- Placate ✓
- Conciliate ✓
- Assuage ✓

- Mitigate
- Alleviate
- Ameliorate
- Satisfy
- Reconcile

ANTONYMS

- Aggravate ✓
- Alienate ✓
- Antagonize ✓
- Provoke ✓

- Enrage
- Inflame
- Injurate
- Agitate
- Incense
- Exacerbate



FORMS

- Pour oil on troubled waters ✓
- Extend an olive branch ✓

Diplomats attempted to _____ both nations before tensions escalated further.

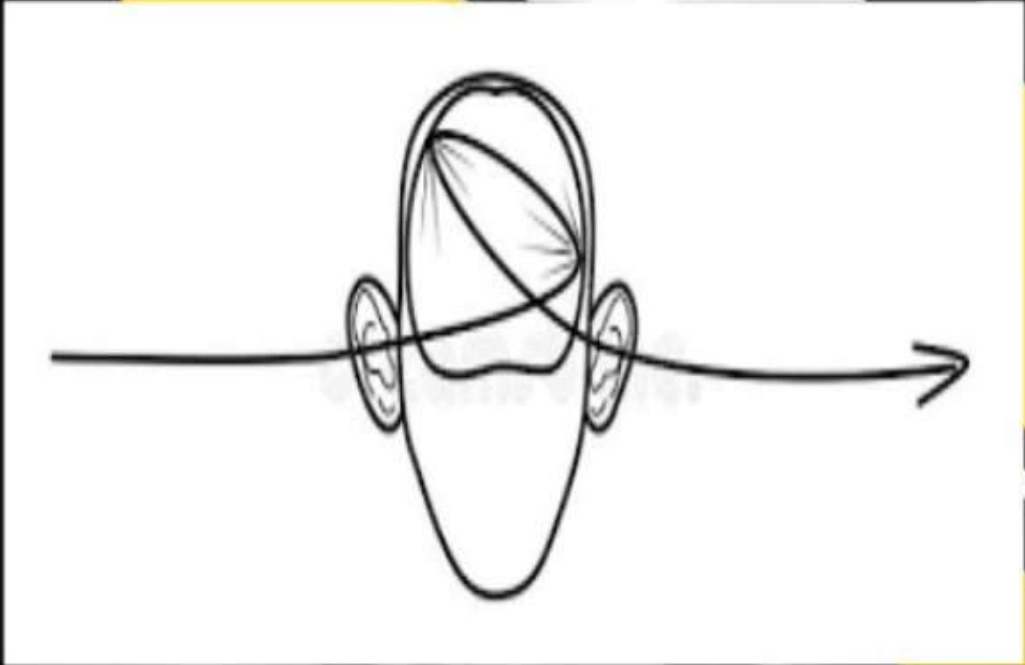


DIGRESS

depart from the main subject

विषयांतर करना

Verb



SYNONYMS

- Deviate
- Diverge
- Stray
- Ramble

Curcumlocute

Meander

Wander

Drift

Longitudinalize

ANTONYMS

- Focus
- Concentrate
- Adhere
- Persist

Zero in - Focus

Alish

to Comply with / Abide by

FORMS

Go off on a tangent
Lose the thread of discussion

Students were advised to _____ on conceptual clarity before examinations.



MONUMENTAL

महत्वपूर्ण

extremely significant or massive



SYNONYMS

Stupendous

- Colossal ✓
- Herculean ✓
- Titanic ✓
- Mammoth ✓

Gargantuan
Gigantic
Massive

ANTONYMS

Diminutive

- Trivial ✓
- Insignificant ✓
- Minor ✓
- Petty ✓

Meagre
Minuscule
Paltry
Futile

FORMS

Of staggering proportions ✓
A watershed moment ✓

The discovery marked a _____ breakthrough in medical science.



VINDICTIVE

प्रतिशोधी (Apy)

driven by revenge

Pernicious ✓ *Pugnacious*

SYNONYMS

- Spiteful ✓
- Vengeful ✓
- Malevolent ✓
- Malicious ✓

Rancorous
Hostile
Contentious

ANTONYMS

- Forgiving ✓
- Benevolent ✓
- Magnanimous (Generous)
- Compassionate ✓

Belligerent | *Belllicose*



FORMS

- Settle an old score ✓
- Carry a grudge to the grave ✓

Despite years of betrayal, she remained surprisingly _____ toward her former friends.



DETENTE

तनाव-शिथिलता

Noun

easing of hostility between rivals



SYNONYMS

Solidarity
Comraderie

ANTONYMS

Reconciliation ✓
Rapprochement ✓
Conciliation ✓
Pacification ✓

Truce

Hostility ✓
Antagonism ✓
Discord ✓
Estrangement ✓

FORMS

Mend fences ✓
Beat swords into ploughshares ✓

Amity

Concord

Both countries entered a phase of diplomatic _____ after decades of rivalry.



1. CAST _____:

aspersion on ✓

SYNO- malign, vilify, disparage ✓

ANTO- praise, commend, extol ✓

EX.- Opposition leaders cast aspersion on the credibility of the investigative agency.

2. CAST _____:

about for ✓

SYNO- seek, hunt, explore ✓

ANTO- ignore, neglect, overlook ✓

EX.- The administration cast about for alternative funding sources after the crisis.

CAST ✓

3. CAST _____:

OFF ✓

SYNO- discard, shed, abandon ✓

ANTO- retain, preserve, keep ✓

EX.- Several nations attempted to cast off colonial economic dependencies.

4. CAST _____:

(into) ✓

SYNO- plunge, thrust, hurl ✓

ANTO- rescue, withdraw, extricate ✓

EX.- The sudden policy reversal cast investors into uncertainty and confusion.

CAST

Phrasal Verb	Meaning (English)	Meaning (Hindi)	Synonyms (3)	Antonyms (3)
Cast aspersions on	To criticize or spread doubts about someone	आरोप लगाना / बदनाम करना	malign, vilify, disparage	praise, commend, extol
Cast about for	To search anxiously for something	तलाश करना	seek, hunt, explore	ignore, neglect, overlook
Cast off	To discard or free oneself from something	त्याग देना	discard, shed, abandon	retain, preserve, keep
Cast into	To throw someone into a condition/state	डाल देना	plunge, thrust, hurl	rescue, withdraw, extricate
Cast back on	To force someone to rely on old resources	निर्भर होने को मजबूर करना	compel, drive, force	liberate, release, free



ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

One Word Substitution

Philatelist

Misogynist

Teetotaler

Ambidexterous

Epitaph

Meaning

A person who collects stamps

A person who hates women

A person who never consumes alcohol

A person who can use both hands equally well

Words written on a tomb or gravestone



Root: "CRYP / CRYPT"
 Meaning: hidden; secret

Word	Meaning (English)	Part of Speech
Cryptic	Hidden in <u>meaning</u> ; mysterious	Adjective
Encrypt	To convert information into secret code	Verb
Decrypt	To decode secret information	Verb
Cryptography	Science of secret writing/coding	Noun
Cryptogram	Message written in code	Noun
Crypt	Underground burial chamber	Noun
Apocryphal	Of <u>doubtful authenticity</u> ; <u>hidden truth</u>	Adjective
Cryptologist	Expert in codes and ciphers	Noun
Encrypted	Converted into coded form	Adjective
Cryptanalysis	Study of breaking secret codes	Noun

In Vinesh Phogat vs wrestling system, the champion is on the mat

ON THAT traumatic night before her gold-medal bout in the 2024 Olympics, a desperate Vinesh Phogat pleaded with the doctor to draw some blood out of her body. She had spent half an hour inside a sauna that was blazing at 98 degrees, but sweat beads hadn't surfaced on her severely dehydrated body. The coaches had cut her hair, even shortened hers in a singlet, but still she weighed 57.1 kg — the stubborn extra 100 grams that eventually led to her disqualification weren't being shed.

Blood, sweat, a potential medical complication and even the possibility of permanent internal organ damage — Vinesh had risked everything to have a shot at the gold and history. She wasn't going to let her country down. She would get sympathy and praise. The all-time great American wrestler Jordan Burroughs said Vinesh deserved a silver medal and that the weight rule needed to change. India's top TT star Manika Batra would get emotional. "You've shown us what it means to chase dreams with passion and grace. India is proud to call you its own, and we're blessed to witness your journey," she posted on social media.

Vinesh would get overwhelming public support, but not quite from those designated to give her the shoulder and be her shield in times of crisis. Those governing the sport that has historically celebrated quick moves and sharp reflexes, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), almost two years after their star wrestler's unfortunate disqualification from the Paris Olympics, would pull her up for an alleged shameful act that only they saw.

"Your failure to manage your weight in the highest international competition... resulted in the loss of an assured Olympic medal for India and caused last-

ing reputational damage to Indian wrestling," WFI told Vinesh in a 15-page show-cause notice days before she was to take her step on the mat after the Olympic slip-up. The firm believers in "revenge is best served cold" in Mario Puzo's works would have blown smoke rings in appreciation and stood up and bowed: The timing was immaculate.

With that WFI statement, irony didn't just die; it was strangled in full public view, with no remorse. Around the Paris Olympics, "the lasting reputational damage to Indian wrestling" was clearly done by the then-WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Six wrestlers had made charges of sexual harassment against him — a dubious first in Indian sports. The chargesheet mentioned grave sections — 354 and 354A. The court, too, would frame the charges. In plain English, the judge had thought that there was sufficient material for a trial to begin.

Vinesh was the face of the turbulent protest against Brij Bhushan at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. She, along with other Indian Olympian wrestlers, had alternately slept in tents and under the stars, inside mosquito nets, outside on sweaty, sultry nights. At the peak of the protest, when the wrestlers planned a march to Parliament, they were dragged on the streets. The frame of Vinesh and Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik braving the batons of cops, sprawled on the floor, would be splashed on the front pages of newspapers around the world.

Those disturbing images from that dramatic day best captured the protest, the insensitivity of those who don't miss a chance to ride the sporting bandwagon and the helplessness of world-con-



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

Between spending time with her toddler, training hard and being a politician, she was regularly attending hearings in court in the Brij Bhushan case. She also made a revelation: Vinesh alleged that she wasn't just a complainant but also one of Brij Bhushan's victims

quering athletes. The wrestlers were eventually detained and driven out of the capital. The protest, for all its moral force, had been physically extinguished. But the images had already travelled. By nightfall they were everywhere — on television, on phones, in living rooms across India. A country that had cheered these same athletes to Olympic podiums was now watching them being detained on a public street. The establishment had won the day. But it had also handed the wrestlers something more durable than a news cycle — a symbol.

Vinesh, on her comeback two years after the devastating Paris disqualification, made it clear that bygones weren't bygones. The WFI, now run by Brij Bhushan's old aide Sanjay Singh, had scheduled the tournament of her return in Gonda, Brij Bhushan territory, where he had been a long-time MP and in the last Lok Sabha election vacated the position for his son.

Now a Congress MLA and mother of a 10-month-old son, Vinesh was to make a fresh start. But she hadn't forgotten the past. Between spending time with her toddler, training hard and being a politician, she was regularly attending hearings in court in the Brij Bhushan case. With the spotlight back on her, she told the media that she didn't feel safe in Gonda. She also made a revelation: Vinesh alleged that she wasn't just a complainant but also one of Brij Bhushan's victims.

Within days, she got the show-cause notice with a plethora of charges. She was asked to explain a missed dope test. The World Anti-Doping Agency gives athletes the provision to miss three tests — but WFI wanted answers, and never mind that

the incident was many months old. At the Paris Olympics trials, why did she compete in two weight categories? The answer was simple — because she was allowed to do so by those in control of WFI then. Besides, someone who had lost trust in the system didn't want to take chances. So what, WFI was suddenly in a mood to ask questions.

There were other dope-related charges, but none had been flagged by or were worthy of sanctions by the world doping agencies. WFI also threw a tangled red tape around her. They said she needed to reply in 14 days, and a soon-to-be-named committee would look into the matter. In a nutshell, Vinesh can't compete, ruling her out of the Asian Games in September. She is a sprinter by nature — she shows the passion to fly off the track, but finds hurdles placed in front of her.

WFI should have verified facts before drafting the show-cause notice. To understand what WFI is undermining, it helps to understand what Vinesh did in Paris before Paris undid her. Japan's legend Yui Susaki had not lost a single international bout in her career — an unblemished 82-0 record. She was, by any measure, the best female wrestler on the planet in that category.

Vinesh dismantled her. It was not a scrambled, fortunate win — it was a statement, the kind that rewrites how a nation thinks about itself in a sport. India had not seen anything quite like it. Her feral rage and killer instinct — the characteristic unseen in most Indian athletes — had built a reputation for her as a new-age modern wrestler and for this country of many ancient *akhadas*. That is what WFI is casually grinding underfoot.

The writer is national sports editor, The Indian Express

On that traumatic night before her gold medal bout in the 2024 Olympics, a desperate Vinesh Phogat pleaded with the doctor to draw some blood out of her body. She had spent half an hour inside a sauna blazing at 98 degrees, but sweat beads still refused to appear on her severely dehydrated body. Coaches cut her hair, shortened her singlet, yet the stubborn extra 100 grams remained, ultimately leading to her disqualification. Blood, sweat, and the possibility of permanent organ damage — Vinesh had risked everything for a shot at Olympic immortality.

The public responded with overwhelming admiration. American wrestling legend Jordan Burroughs argued that she deserved a silver medal, while Manika Batra praised her “passion and grace.” Yet the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), instead of shielding one of its greatest athletes, issued a 15-page show-cause notice accusing her of causing “lasting reputational damage” to Indian wrestling. The timing of the notice, delivered just before her competitive return, carried an almost vindictive undertone.

Ironically, the real reputational damage to Indian wrestling stemmed not from Vinesh, but from the sexual harassment allegations against former WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Six wrestlers had accused him under grave sections of the law, and the court found sufficient material for a trial. Vinesh became the face of the turbulent protest at Jantar Mantar, where wrestlers spent nights under mosquito nets and endured oppressive summer heat while demanding justice.

The images of Vinesh and Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik being dragged by police and struck with batons became **indelible** symbols of resistance. Athletes once celebrated as national icons were detained on public streets, exposing the **apathy** of an establishment eager to celebrate sporting triumphs but reluctant to confront institutional wrongdoing. Though the protests were physically extinguished, the symbolism endured.

Two years later, Vinesh attempted a comeback while balancing motherhood, political responsibilities as a Congress MLA, and relentless training. She also continued attending court hearings in the Brij Bhushan case and revealed that she herself was among the alleged victims. Soon after, WFI revived months-old allegations regarding missed dope tests and procedural matters. None had attracted sanctions from international agencies, yet the federation used them to create an atmosphere of **scrutiny** and uncertainty that effectively jeopardised her participation in the Asian Games.

What WFI overlooked was what Vinesh achieved in Paris before Paris undid her. She defeated Japan's Yui Susaki, an unbeaten wrestler with an astonishing 82-0 international record. It was not a fortunate upset but a **monumental** statement — the kind that reshapes a nation's sporting consciousness. Her **ferocity**, resilience, and unyielding instinct represented a rare transformation in Indian wrestling. That legacy, however, now risks being eroded by bureaucratic _____ (a) and institutional **callousness**.

1. Which of the following statements are TRUE according to the passage?

- I. Jordan Burroughs believed Vinesh deserved a silver medal despite her disqualification. ✓
- II. International anti-doping agencies imposed sanctions upon Vinesh for missed dope tests. ✗
- III. Vinesh later disclosed that she herself was among the alleged victims in the Brij Bhushan case. ✓

- A. Only I and II
- B. Only II and III
- C. Only I and III ✓
- D. Only III
- E. I, II and III

2. Which of the following can be validly inferred from the passage?

I. The author perceives the state's treatment of protesting wrestlers as emblematic of institutional hypocrisy.

II. Vinesh's victory against Yui Susaki symbolised a broader psychological shift within Indian wrestling.

III. The passage suggests that sporting success ~~guarantees~~ institutional protection for athletes.

A. Only I

B. Only II

C. Only I and II

D. Only II and III

E. I, II and III

3. Which of the following best explains the author's inclusion of Vinesh's struggle before the Olympic bout?

- A. To illustrate the procedural irrationalities governing Olympic wrestling regulations internationally
- B. To portray the extraordinary physical and psychological sacrifices underpinning elite athletic ambition
- C. To demonstrate the medical incompetence of coaching staff supervising Olympic athletes under pressure
- D. To establish that Olympic disqualifications frequently emerge from avoidable administrative negligence
- E. To emphasise the commercial pressures associated with maintaining international sporting reputations

4. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's criticism of WFI?

- A. Several international federations had previously suspended athletes over repeated procedural inconsistencies
- B. Independent medical experts confirmed that Vinesh's weight-cutting process posed severe long-term health risks
- C. Internal WFI communications revealed deliberate attempts to discourage Vinesh's competitive participation
- D. A majority of Indian wrestlers publicly opposed the protests conducted at Jantar Mantar during the controversy
- E. Olympic disqualifications due to marginal weight violations have historically occurred across multiple nations

5. The phrase “Paris undid her” most nearly implies that

A. the Olympic authorities deliberately manipulated regulations against Vinesh during the competition

B. the emotional burden of political activism diminished her ability to compete effectively in Paris

C. the city symbolically represented the collapse of her long-pursued dream despite extraordinary achievement

D. international sporting structures remained fundamentally hostile towards athletes from developing nations

E. her disqualification permanently erased the significance of her earlier wrestling accomplishments

6. The author's tone throughout the passage can best be described as

- A. Reverential — Respect ✓
 - B. Caustic — Acerbic
 - C. Ambivalent ⊗
 - D. Sardonic ∩
 - E. Pragmatic ⊗
- WFI
Vineesh

7. That legacy, however, now risks being eroded by bureaucratic _____ and institutional callousness.

A. magnanimity

B. vigilance

C. pettiness

D. ingenuity

E. resilience

(-)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(-)

✓

Superpower summit

As the U.S., China renegotiate ties, India must reinforce its strategic autonomy

As U.S. President Donald Trump left Beijing on Friday after two days of talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the world's two biggest powers appeared to have come to a temporary truce. How long it will last remains to be seen, given that the summit concluded without any apparent breakthroughs in the long list of differences, from trade to Taiwan, that have strained relations. Instead, both sides appear focused on injecting some stability into a relationship that has, of late, seen many ups-and-downs. Mr. Xi offered a new label for ties, calling for "a constructive relationship of strategic stability" for the remaining years of Mr. Trump's term and beyond. If both agree on the need for some stability, their priorities appear to differ. Mr. Xi told Mr. Trump that Taiwan was the most important issue in the relationship, which could descend into conflict if not properly managed. The U.S. stance on Taiwan remains unchanged, which includes substantial arms sales. How this détente will handle the Trump administration's next sale remains to be seen. For Mr. Trump, getting China to buy more American goods and relax controls on rare earths are key metrics of the health of ties. He said that Beijing had agreed to buy 200 Boeing aircraft, step up purchases of soyabean, and relax restrictions on U.S. beef exports - the "three Bs" he has emphasised. The U.S. has also allowed 10 Chinese firms to resume purchases of advanced Nvidia chips. Both sides have discussed setting up a Board of Trade to manage trade issues, including reducing tariffs on some Chinese goods, and a Board of Investment to green light Chinese investment in non-sensitive sectors.

These deals, if confirmed, may at most lead to a pause in a bruising trade war. However, the Beijing summit has also served as a reminder of the broader changing structural dynamics in relations between the world's two biggest powers. If the U.S. remains the pre-eminent military power today, it is the limits of its ability to command global influence that have come into question increasingly, all the more so after the Iran war. China, for its part, has made clear it is no longer interested in biding its time or hiding its global ambitions. As Mr. Xi put it to Mr. Trump, can China and the U.S. avoid the Thucydides Trap, of an inevitable conflict between the established power and the rising power, and create a new model of relations? This question holds significance for India and the rest of the world, which have to navigate this rivalry. Standing up to U.S. pressure, while managing difficult relations with an increasingly confident China, will be two key tests of India's diplomacy in the years to come. Reinforcing India's strategic autonomy and independence, rather than diluting it, will offer the best path forward.

As U.S. President Donald Trump left Beijing on Friday after two days of talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the world's two biggest powers appeared to have come to a temporary truce. How long it will last remains to be seen, given that the summit concluded without any apparent breakthroughs in the long list of differences, from trade to Taiwan, that have strained relations. Instead, both sides appear focused on injecting some stability into a relationship that has, of late, seen many ups-and-downs. Mr. Xi offered a new label for ties, calling for "a constructive relationship of strategic stability" for the remaining years of Mr. Trump's term and beyond. If both agree on the need for some stability, their priorities appear to differ. Mr. Xi told Mr. Trump that Taiwan was the most important issue in the relationship, which could descend into conflict if not properly managed. The U.S. stance on Taiwan remains unchanged, which includes substantial arms sales. How this **détente** will handle the Trump administration's next sale remains to be seen. For Mr. Trump, getting China to buy more American goods and relax controls on rare earths are key metrics of the health of ties. He said that Beijing had agreed to buy 200 Boeing aircraft, step up purchases of soyabean, and relax restrictions on U.S. beef exports – the "three Bs" he has emphasised. The U.S. has also allowed 10 Chinese firms to resume purchases of advanced Nvidia chips. Both sides have discussed setting up a Board of Trade to manage trade issues, including reducing tariffs on some Chinese goods, and a Board of Investment to green light Chinese investment in non-sensitive sectors.

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1. The U.S. and China reached a temporary understanding after talks between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, but major disputes still remain unresolved.
2. China wants stability in relations and considers Taiwan the most sensitive issue, while the U.S. continues its support and arms sales to Taiwan.
3. The U.S. is mainly focused on trade benefits, including China buying more American goods like Boeing aircraft, soybeans, and beef.
4. The passage highlights the growing rivalry between the U.S. and China, with China becoming more confident about its global ambitions.
5. India must carefully balance its relations with both powers and protect its strategic independence in the changing global order.

8. Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?

- A. The U.S.–China summit resolved most geopolitical disputes through institutional cooperation mechanisms.
- B. The evolving U.S.–China rivalry reflects deeper structural tensions with global diplomatic implications.
- C. China's economic rise has permanently displaced the United States from global leadership positions.
- D. India must abandon strategic neutrality to counter China's increasing regional assertiveness immediately.
- E. Taiwan remains the sole determinant shaping future diplomatic engagement between Washington and Beijing.

9. Which of the following statements can be correctly inferred from the passage?

- I. The summit completely resolved longstanding disagreements relating to Taiwan and trade policies.
- II. China no longer intends to conceal its broader international strategic aspirations from global observers.
- III. India's diplomatic challenges may intensify because of increasing rivalry between the United States and China.

- A. Only II
- B. Only III
- C. Both I and II
- D. Both II and III
- E. I, II and III

10. Which of the following statements are TRUE according to the passage?

- I. The United States allowed certain Chinese firms to resume purchases of Nvidia chips.
- II. China agreed to immediately terminate all restrictions affecting American agricultural exports permanently.
- III. Both nations discussed institutional mechanisms to manage investment and trade-related disagreements strategically.

A. Only I

B. Only II

C. Both I and III

D. Both II and III

E. I, II and III

11. Which of the following factors are presented as indicators of improving U.S.–China relations from Mr. Trump’s perspective?

- I. Increased Chinese purchases of American soyabean and Boeing aircraft.
- II. Chinese recognition of Taiwan as an independent sovereign democratic territory.
- III. Relaxation of Chinese restrictions affecting American beef exports into domestic markets.

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Both I and III
- D. Both II and III
- E. I, II and III

12. Which of the following statements regarding India's strategic position are implied in the passage?

- I. India may face simultaneous pressure from both the United States and an assertive China.
- II. Diluting strategic independence would strengthen India's long-term diplomatic flexibility and negotiating capacity.
- III. Managing external pressures while preserving autonomy could become central to India's foreign policy.

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Both I and II
- D. Both I and III
- E. I, II and III

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FILLERS

1. Years of political _____ between the neighboring nations hindered meaningful diplomatic dialogue.
2. Historians continue to _____ the reformer for his extraordinary social contributions.
3. The professor often tends to _____ during lectures, making students lose track of the topic.
4. The revolutionaries fought with intense _____ against colonial oppression.
5. His _____ remarks during the meeting created unnecessary bitterness among colleagues.

Word Box: Ramble, Fervor, Exalt, Spiteful, Antagonism