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Passage No. 30

Directions: Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words/phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

(The passage has been extracted from 'The Hindu' dated June 11, 2014.)

Ever since the morning after 26/11, India's strategic community has discussed what the country ought to do when the next 26/11 happens. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have to answer that question sooner than most people expect. The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) staged its first operation against an Indian target since 26/11 just hours before Mr. Modi took office, attacking India's mission in Herat. Lashkar chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed blamed Mr. Modi for this week's attacks on Karachi — and demanded vengeance.

From past evidence, we know these threats aren't **idle**. "The only language India understands is that of force," a press release issued by the Lashkar's parent organisation, Jamaat-ud-Dawa recorded Mr. Saeed as saying before 26/11, "and that is the language it must be talked to in."

From files he will have read since taking office, Mr. Modi will have learned why Dr. Singh did nothing. Indian combat jets could hit training camps across the Line of Control (LoC), Air Chief Marshal Fali Major said at a November 29 meeting called for by the Prime Minister, but precise coordinates and **adequate** imaging weren't available. Later, General Deepak Kapoor, the chief of Army staff, told Dr. Singh he couldn't promise special forces' strikes would be successful either.

No one could guarantee missile strikes wouldn't **escalate** into war, or even a nuclear exchange — and no one could guarantee war would compel Pakistan's military to change course.

Mr. Modi's advisers know five responses are on the table — but all of them involve great risks. The first is to keep doing nothing. The threat of a major India-Pakistan crisis after 26/11 led the United States to mount intense pressure on Pakistan. In the years since, the LeT hasn't mounted a single major operation on Indian soil. Its affiliate, the Indian Mujahideen, has had restraint thrust upon it by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Directorate.

Inaction, though, only succeeds if someone else does the hard work. In 2008, fearing its own war in Afghanistan would be **undermined** by an India-Pakistan war, the U.S. stepped in. Now, as it prepares to withdraw from Afghanistan, the country's appetite for playing global policeman is diminishing. Doing nothing could thus invite even more punishment.

Like Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr. Modi's second choice might be coercion. In 2001, after terrorists attacked Parliament, India mobilised troops. Pakistan was forced to respond — but its smaller economy suffered disproportionately. The stratagem is time-tested. In 1953, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru mobilised troops in Punjab to deter a Pakistani attack into Kashmir.

Mr. Vajpayee's strategy worked, forcing Pakistan to dramatically scale down the jihad in Jammu and Kashmir. It only worked, though, because the U.S. played mediator — much like after 26/11 — and it was hideously expensive, in money and lives.

The third choice is to do what Dr. Singh couldn't: limited strikes on jihadist training camps across the LoC, using air power or missiles. In the five years since 26/11, India's ability to conduct such strikes has been significantly enhanced. However, the tactic hasn't had great success. In August 1998, the United States fired missiles into Afghanistan, seeking to avenge bombings which killed 224 people. In all, 75 missiles, each priced at \$1.5 million, killed six minor jihadists. Moreover, Pakistan could hit back, targeting Indian industrial infrastructure, which is much more expensive than tent-and-donkey cart training camps.

Fourth, the Prime Minister could tell Indian troops to target the Pakistan Army along the LoC, using artillery and infantry — a task aided by the fact that its defences along stretches of the Neelam valley have been degraded by troops

having to be moved to fight the Tehreek-e-Taliban elsewhere. The fighting that will follow though will make it more difficult to secure the LoC against jihadist infiltration — leading to heightened violence in Kashmir.

Mr. Modi could, finally, authorise the use of covert means, like bomb-for-bomb strikes or targeted assassination of jihadist leaders. Mr. Modi's intelligence services, though, don't have this arrow in their quiver — and it will be a while, most experts say, before they can acquire it.

Every sane person should hope Mr. Modi will never be required to **exercise** any of his military options — but thinking through war is just as important as talking peace.

Questions:

- 1. What is the major reason according to the passage is for the Lashkar-e-Taiba not mounting a major operation on Indian soil after 26/11?**
 - A. Due to India's enhanced security after 26/11
 - B. Due to India's serious dialogue with Pakistan
 - C. Due to the pressure Pakistan got from the United States of America
 - D. Because the outfit lost its Chief in an accident
 - E. None of these
- 2. Which of the following statements according to the passage is not true?**
 - A. Coercion tactics to combat Pakistan's cloven hoof have never been successful in the past.
 - B. Dr M. M. Singh did almost nothing in response to 26/11 attacks.
 - C. Fighting the Pakistan Army along the LoC head-on may make it more difficult to secure the LoC against jihadist infiltration.
 - D. A war with Pakistan could not guarantee peace after 26/11.
 - E. A war with Pakistan could not guarantee peace after 26/11.

3. What according to the passage could be a way to respond to Pakistan after 26/11 attacks?

- I. To persuade Pakistan forcefully to stop the terror acts on India.
- II. To launch limited strikes on jihadist training camps across the border.
- III. To target assassination of jihadist leaders.

A. Only 1 B. Only 2 C. Only 1 & 2 D. Only 2 & 3 E. All the above

4. Which of the following statements according to the passage is true?

- A. America has never been supportive to India against Pakistan.
- B. The writer talks about pros and cons of responding to Pakistan if it attacks India in future.
- C. Hafiz Muhammad Saeed never blamed Mr. Modi for recent attacks on Karachi.
- D. All are true
- E. None is true

5. What could be an appropriate title of the passage?

- A. India and Pakistan : An endless saga of hatred
- B. India's future response to Pak's attack and its pros and cons
- C. India, Pakistan and the USA : A way ahead to settle disputes
- D. Ways to stop cross border terrorism and restore peace
- E. None of these

6. Choose the word most SIMILAR in meaning.

Idle

- A. Free B. Unoccupied C. Forfeiture D. Hollow E. Abandoned

7. Choose the word most SIMILAR in meaning.

Exercise

- A. To use B. To neglect C. To learn D. To work out E. To force

8. Choose the word most SIMILAR in meaning.

Escalate

- A. To grow greater in size or intensity
- B. To change
- C. To get larger in quantity
- D. To become worse
- E. To take revenge

9. Choose the word most OPPOSITE in meaning.

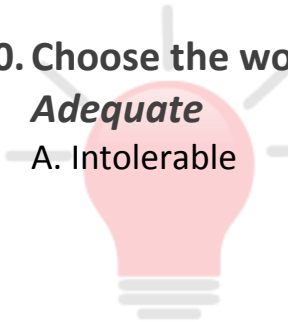
Undermine

- A. To demean
- B. To upgrade
- C. To make stronger
- D. To weaken
- E. To nullify

10. Choose the word most OPPOSITE in meaning.

Adequate

- A. Intolerable
- B. Insufficient
- C. Enough
- D. Inappropriate
- E. Unequal



Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	A	E	B	B	D	A	A	C	B

Explanations:

1. Kindly refer to the 3rd and 4th sentences of the 5th paragraph.
2. The answer can easily be inferred from the 7th paragraph.
3. Kindly refer to the 7th, 9th and 11th paragraphs of the passage.
4. The writer in the passage clearly states 5 responses that can be acted upon if Pakistan attacks India in future. The writer also talks about prospects and consequences of every response India resorts to.

The option B, hence, is correct.

5. As explained in the explanation part of the previous question, option B can be chosen as an appropriate title of the passage.
6. In the context of the passage, we can refer to an idle threat or boast when you do not think the person making it will or can do what they say.

Ex. It was more of an idle threat than anything else.

The most similar word to 'Idle' hence will be 'Hollow' or 'Empty'.

7. If you exercise something such as your authority, your rights, or a good quality, you use it or put it into effect.

In the context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Exercise' is 'To use'.

8. If a bad situation escalates or if someone or something escalates it, it becomes greater in size, seriousness, or intensity.

In the context of the passage, it refers to 'to grow in intensity'. The option A, hence, is correct.

9. If you undermine someone or undermine their position or authority, you make their authority or position less secure, often by indirect methods.

In the context of the passage, the opposite of 'Undermine' is 'To make stronger'.

10. If something is adequate, there is enough of it or it is good enough to be used or accepted.

In the context of the passage, the opposite of 'Adequate' is 'Insufficient'.



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