## Reverse the hostility: on the confrontation between the government and the Opposition in Kerala

The **incidents** in Kerala's Assembly **could** have been avoided if the Speaker remained **non-partisan**

**Adversarial relations** between the **ruling** party and the Opposition **are inevitable** in a democracy and, in a way, such relations that **bring** strong **differences** of opinion and **contentious** views **to the fore** are critical. Democracy **flourishes** when there is **reconciliation** through legislative **debate**. Yet, adversarial **relations resulting in** confrontation following the lack of **discourse** over differences on issues of public **import**, **speak** poorly of legislative conduct. This **holds true** of Kerala, where **legislative business** has **come to a standstill** after a **severe deterioration** in relations between the ruling **coalition** and the Opposition. What began as an issue of the Speaker repeatedly disallowing discussion on **Rule 50** notices by the Opposition United Democratic Front last week has grown into a **full-blown** confrontation, with legal cases being filed against **legislators** after incidents that resulted in a **ruckus** in the Assembly. **A case can be made** that it **ill behoves** the Opposition to **resort** to **parodying** Assembly **proceedings** after the Speaker's **denials** or to protest in an unparliamentary way against the Chair, currently held by A.N. Shamseer. But the **onus** is on the Speaker and the ruling **front** to ensure that the Opposition's legislative **privilege** to have discussions on **pressing** issues **is** respected and allowed. Clearly, the repeated **denial** of discussions on Rule 50 notices and the **filing** of serious legal cases against Opposition members **have** only **deepened** the confrontation. Other **grievances** expressed by the Opposition that their legislators do not get sufficient play on Sabha TV, the official broadcaster, also **seem** to have **merit**.

On Monday, the Speaker **struck a conciliatory note** by **expunging remarks** made by him against a Congress legislator. He also **assured** the Opposition that he would **uphold** their rights that included the privilege to move Rule 50 notices on matters of "**vital** public importance" and ensure that the Assembly broadcaster was non-partisan. This should be the **cue** for both sides to begin a **dialogue leading to** the **reversal** of **vituperative** legal actions and the **resumption** of normal legislative **discourse**. Kerala is India's **bellwether** on socio-economic issues, but it faces unique challenges as an **ecologically fragile** State that has to work on a balance between development and **ecological sustainability**, as the Brahmapuram fire incident also **exemplified**. Healthy discussion and debate over ideas, even if adversarial, would **go a long way** in ensuring good **governance** by **keeping** the LDF government **on its toes.** How the ruling coalition and, **by extension**, the Chief Minister, responds to the Opposition's **call** for non-partisan conduct of legislative proceedings will determine the **course** of **normalisation** of relations between the two fronts in the State.                    **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Hostility** (noun) – antagonism, unfriendliness, bitterness, malevolence, malice मनमुटाव /शत्रुता

2. **Confrontation** (noun) – discord, dissension, clash, conflict, disagreement, altercation टकराव

3. **Non-partisan** (adjective) – not biased or partisan, especially towards any particular political group. गैर पक्षपातपूर्ण

4. **Adversarial** (adjective) – Confrontational, argumentative, antagonistic विरोधात्मक

5. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling सत्तारूढ़

6. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, inescapable, bound to happen, sure to happen अपरिहार्य

7. **Bring something to the fore** (phrase) – To emphasize something or make it more noticeable सामने लाना/ रखना

8. **Difference** (noun) – a disagreement, quarrel, or dispute मतभेद

9. **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, quarrelsome, combative, disputatious, argumentative विवादपूर्ण

10. **Flourish** (verb) – thrive, prosper, bloom, grow, blossom फलना-फूलना

11. **Reconciliation** (noun) – the restoration of friendly relations. सुलह

12. **Debate** (noun) – Discussion, argument, dispute, deliberation बहस

13. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – To be the cause of: परिणामस्वरूप

14. **Discourse** (noun) – Discussion, conversation, dialogue चर्चा

15. **Import** (noun) – Significance, importance, consequence, seriousness महत्व

16. **Hold true** (phrase) – seem to be true; remain true or valid. सच प्रतीत होता है।

17. **Legislative** (adjective) – relating to a legislature; parliamentary, policy-making विधायी

18. **Business** (noun) – Matter, issue, affair, subject, topic मामला

19. **Come to a standstill** (phrase) – come to a complete stop or a state of inactivity; to stop completely. ठप होना/बंद होना

20. **Severe** (adjective) –acute, very bad, serious, grave, critical गंभीर, तीव्र

21. **Deterioration** (noun) – decline, decay, degradation, worsening, degeneration गिरावट

22. **Coalition** (noun) –alliance, union, partnership, affiliation, bloc गठबंधन

23. **Rule 50** (noun) – a specific rule of procedure in the legislative assembly or parliament that governs the conduct of debates and discussions.

24. **Full-blown** (adjective) – Complete, full (a situation that has become more extreme) पूर्ण

25. **Legislator** (noun) – lawmaker, lawgiver, parliamentarian, politician विधायक

26. **Ruckus** (noun) – Commotion, uproar, turmoil, chaos हंगामा

27. **Make a case** (phrase) – to argue that something is the best thing to do, giving your reasons किसी मामले के पक्ष में तर्क देना

28. **Ill behove** (phrase) – to be inappropriate or unseemly अनुचित होना

29. **Resort** (to) (verb) – recourse to, turning to, the use of, utilizing सहारा लेना

30. **Parody** (verb) – imitate , satirize, mimic ( in a humorous or exaggerated way) नकल करना

31. **Proceedings** (noun) – course of action, action, step, measure, move कार्यवाही

32. **Denial** (noun) – refusal, rejection, repudiation, disavowal, negation इनकार

33. **Onus** (noun) – responsibility, liability, obligation, duty, charge कर्तव्य/ जिम्मेदारी

34. **Front** (noun) – a group that represents a particular political or social interest मोर्चा

35. **Privilege** (noun) – the special right विशेषाधिकार

36. **Pressing** (adjective) – urgent, critical, crucial, acute, desperate, serious अत्यावश्यक/ महत्वपूर्ण

37. **Deepen** (verb) – Make more intense, stronger, or more marked गहरा होना

38. **Grievance** (noun) – complaint, criticism, objection, protestation शिकायत

39. **Merit** (noun) – Good point, strong point (deserving of attention)

40. **Strike a note** (phrase) – Say or do what is especially appropriate

41. **Conciliatory** (adjective) – Appeasing , peacemaking, pacifying, assuaging सुलह

42. **Expunge** (verb) – to erase or remove completely. हटाना

43. **Remark** (noun) – Comment, Statement टिप्पणी

44. **Assure** (verb) – Ensure, guarantee, confirm, secure, substantiate आश्वस्त करना

45. **Uphold** (verb) – support, endorse, sustain, defend, back बरकरार रखना

46. **Vital** (adjective) – crucial, essential, necessary, important, imperative महत्वपूर्ण

47. **Cue** (noun) – Prompt, Signal, sign, indication, hint संकेत

48. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse बातचीत, संवाद

49. **Lead** (to) (verb) – bring about, cause, give rise to, result in  वजह बनना

50. **Reversal** (noun) – alteration, changing उलटाव

51. **Vituperative** (adjective) – Insulting, abusive, offensive, bitter language अपमानजनक

52. **Resumption** (noun) – restart, restarting, recommencement, reopening, reinstitution पुनरारंभ

53. **Bellwether** (noun) – a person or thing that leads or indicates a trend

54. **Ecologically** (adverb) – in a way that relates to ecology or the environment पारिस्थितिकी

55. **Fragile** (adjective) – weak, delicate, frail, debilitated, tottery, shaky कमजोर

56. **Ecological** (adjective) – Relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings. पारिस्थितिक

57. **Sustainability** (noun) – The ability to be maintained at a certain level; continuity, durability, stability स्थिरता

58. **Exemplify** (verb) – Demonstrate, represent, illustrate, show, embody उदाहरण देना

59. **Go a long way** (phrase) – be very successful

60. **Governance** (noun) – The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन

61. **Keep someone on their toes** (phrase) – to keep someone alert, active, and ready to deal with any situation. किसी को सतर्क, सक्रिय और किसी भी स्थिति से निपटने के लिए तैयार रखना।

62. **By extension** (phrase) – taking the same line of argument further. विस्तार से

63. **Call** (noun) – demand, Request, plea, appeal मांग

64. **Course** (noun) – a procedure adopted to deal with a situation कार्यप्रणाली

65. **Normalisation** (noun) – it refers to a process that makes something more normal or regular सामान्यकरण

## Practice Exercise – SSC Pattern

1. **What led to the deterioration of relations between the ruling coalition and the Opposition in Kerala**?    **[Editorial Page]**
   A. The Speaker allowing extensive discussions on Rule 50 notices
   B. The Opposition United Democratic Front expressing satisfaction with legislative conduct
   C. The Speaker repeatedly disallowing discussion on Rule 50 notices by the Opposition United Democratic Front
   D. Kerala facing no unique challenges as an ecologically fragile state

2. **What did the Speaker assure the Opposition in order to strike a conciliatory note**?
   (i) To allow parodying Assembly proceedings
   (ii) To uphold their rights, including the privilege to move Rule 50 notices and ensure non-partisan Assembly broadcasting
   (iii) To expunge remarks made by him against congress legislator
   (iv) To dissolve the Assembly and call for new elections
       A. (i), (ii), (iii)
       B. (ii), (iv)
       C. (i), (iv)
       D. (ii), (iii)

3. **What is one of the unique challenges faced by Kerala, as mentioned in the passage**?
   A. Achieving complete political harmony
   B. Maintaining a balance between development and ecological sustainability
   C. Overcoming its status as an ecologically fragile state
   D. Ensuring that legislative privilege is respected

4. **Which tone is primarily reflected in the passage**?
   A. Accusatory
   B. Sarcastic
   C. Optimistic
   D. Analytical

5. **What is the main theme of the passage**?
   A. The adversarial relations between the ruling party and the Opposition in Kerala and the need for reconciliation
   B. The importance of maintaining a balance between development and ecological sustainability in Kerala
   C. The role of the Speaker in maintaining order in the legislative assembly
   D. The challenges faced by Kerala as an ecologically fragile state

6. What is a **synonym** for the word "**adversarial**" in the context of the passage?
   A. Amicable
   B. Contentious

C. Harmonious

D. Cooperative

7. What is a **synonym** for the word "**reconciliation**" as used in the passage?

A. Division

B. Resolution

C. Estrangement

D. Separation

8. What is an **antonym** for the word "**confrontation**" in the context of the passage?

A. Agreement

B. Hostility

C. Quarrel

D. Strife

9. **Which idiom or phrase best captures the idea of addressing grievances and resolving differences through dialogue, as mentioned in the passage**?

A. A picture is worth a thousand words

B. Biting the bullet

C. Turning over a new leaf

D. Mending fences

10. Choose the **correctly spelled** word based on the passage.

A. Adversarial

B. Advercerial

C. Adverserial

D. Adverceriel

**Comprehension**

As the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party _____1_____ the eighth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, retail inflation has accelerated close to the 8.3% level last seen in May 2014, when Mr. Modi _____2_____ office in the last week of the month. For a government that prided itself on its inflation taming successes in the first five years, a combination of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, high crude oil prices and now the war in Ukraine have created a perfect storm that sent the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation racing to a 95-month high of 7.79% in April. Food and fuel were the biggest culprits _____3_____ last month's furious pace of price gains that seem unabating. Food inflation as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) quickened to a 17-month high of 8.38% last month, with rural consumers experiencing it at 8.5%, a pace that was 41 basis points faster than that experienced by their urban counterparts. Ten of the 12 items in the food and beverages basket of the overall CPI registered sequential acceleration as well. Of concern are the prices of cereals and products, which _____4_____ almost a tenth of the CPI and account _____5_____ the key staples of wheat and rice that are essential for

ensuring food security. Inflation in cereals accelerated by more than 100 basis points to 5.96% last month.

11. Select the most appropriate option to fill blank 1
    A. Pervades
    B. Marks
    C. Vitiates
    D. Curtails

12. Select the most appropriate option to fill blank 2
    A. Construed
    B. Assumed
    C. Encroached
    D. Inaugurated

13. Select the most appropriate option to fill blank 3
    A. Exonerating
    B. Deriding
    C. Fanning
    D. Relegating

14. Select the most appropriate option to fill blank 4
    A. Constitute
    B. Elicit
    C. Replenish
    D. Extrapolate

15. Select the most appropriate option to fill blank 5
    A. For
    B. To
    C. On
    D. Into

**Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.**

16. **Will he have written a letter?**
    A. Will a letter have written by him?
    B. Will a letter be written by him?
    C. Will a letter to be written by him?
    D. Will a letter have been written by him?

17. **The doctor advised me to give up sweets**.
    A. To me give up sweets was advised by doctor.
    B. The doctor advised to give up sweets me.
    C. I was advised by the doctor to give up sweets.
    D. I was advised to give up eat sweets by the doctor.

**Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.**

18. **He said that we are all born to die**.
    A.  He said, "We have all been born to die."
    B.  He exclaimed, "We were all born to die."
    C.  He said, "We were all born to die."
    D.  He said, "We are all born to die."

19. **He said to me, "I grew these carrots myself**."
    A.  He told me that he grew those carrots himself.
    B.  He told me I grew these carrots myself.
    C.  He told me that he grew these carrots himself.
    D.  He told me that he had grown those carrots himself.

20. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**

    **P**: Non-performing assets (NPA) or bad loans of banks have come down to their lowest levels, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said at a Confederation of Indian Industry event on March 21.

    **Q**: The fall in NPA ratio is accompanied by an improvement in capital adequacy of banks and interest coverage ratio of companies.

    **R:** To be sure, bad loans could see a marginal rise due to stress among small borrowers when the moratorium announced during the pandemic comes to an end later this year.

    **S:** Persistence of inflation due to the ongoing geopolitical disruptions is bound to increase the squeeze on purchasing powers at large.

    A.  **QRPS**
    B.  **RSPQ**
    C.  **PQRS**
    D.  **SRQP**

21. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**.
    A.  On receiving the mark-sheet from the university
    B.  I realised
    C.  that I had got only passing marks in English.
    D.  No Error

22. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**
    A.  When she knocked the door
    B.  I said to her
    C.  Come in.
    D.  No Error

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23. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**
    A. He said
    B. that he will meet me
    C. at the restaurant.
    D. No Error

24. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**
    A. Miss Rama Devi has
    B. two elephants, ten horses
    C. and as much as fifty cars.
    D. No Error.

25. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words/phrase**
    Practice of employing spies in war
    A. Eradicate
    B. Espionage
    C. Sinecure
    D. Manometer

## Answers

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

## Explanations

1. C. The Speaker repeatedly disallowing discussion on Rule 50 notices by the Opposition United Democratic Front

   **Explanation**: The passage states that the deterioration in relations between the ruling coalition and the Opposition began when the Speaker repeatedly disallowed discussion on Rule 50 notices by the Opposition United Democratic Front.

2. D. (ii) To uphold their rights, including the privilege to move Rule 50 notices and ensure non-partisan Assembly broadcasting
   (iii) To expunge remarks made by him against congress legislator

   **Explanation**: The Speaker aimed to strike a conciliatory note by expunging remarks made against a Congress legislator and assuring the Opposition that their rights would be upheld, including the privilege to move Rule 50 notices on matters of "vital public importance" and ensuring non-partisan broadcasting by the Assembly broadcaster.

3. B. Maintaining a balance between development and ecological sustainability

   **Explanation**: The passage mentions that Kerala, as an ecologically fragile state, faces unique challenges. One of these challenges is to strike a balance between development and ecological sustainability, exemplified by the Brahmapuram fire incident.

4. D) Analytical

   **Explanation**: The passage primarily reflects an analytical tone as it examines the adversarial relations between the ruling party and the Opposition in Kerala, discusses the causes and consequences of the confrontation, and suggests potential ways to resolve the issue.

5. A) The adversarial relations between the ruling party and the Opposition in Kerala and the need for reconciliation

   **Explanation**: The passage primarily discusses the adversarial relations between the ruling coalition and the Opposition in Kerala, focusing on the importance of reconciliation through legislative debate and the need for both sides to work towards normalizing relations.

6. B. **Contentious**

   **Explanation**: In the passage, "adversarial" refers to the oppositional and conflict-driven nature of relations between the ruling party and the Opposition in a democracy. "Contentious" is a synonym for "adversarial" as it also implies disagreement and dispute.

7. B. **Resolution**

   **Explanation**: In the passage, "reconciliation" refers to the process of resolving differences between the ruling party and the Opposition through legislative debate. "Resolution" is a synonym for "reconciliation" as it also means finding a solution or agreement between opposing parties.

8. A. **Agreement**

   **Explanation**: In the passage, "confrontation" refers to the conflict and opposition that has resulted from the lack of discourse over differences on issues of public importance.

"Agreement" is an antonym for "confrontation" as it signifies harmony and consensus between parties.

9. D. Mending fences

**Explanation**: In the passage, it is suggested that the Speaker's conciliatory note should be a cue for both sides to begin a dialogue, resolving their differences and resuming normal legislative discourse. The idiom "mending fences" means to repair a relationship through communication and addressing grievances, which aligns with this idea.

10. A. **Adversarial**

**Explanation**: The correct spelling of the word is "adversarial" (e.g., "Adversarial relations between the ruling party and the Opposition are inevitable"). The other options are misspellings of the word.

11. **Mark** (verb) – celebrate, observe, recognize उत्सव मनाना

   ➢ **Pervade** (verb) – To spread throughout व्याप्त होना

   ➢ **Vitiate** (verb) –To make impure; to pollute भ्रष्ट करना

   ➢ **Curtail**　(verb) – To shorten; to cut short घटाना, संक्षिप्त करना

12. **Assume** (verb) – Take or begin to have (power or responsibility) जिम्मेदारी संभालना

   ➢ **Construe** (verb) –To interpret शब्दानुवाद करना, अर्थ करना

   ➢ **Encroach** (verb) –To make gradual or stealthy in roads into; to trespass अतिक्रमण करना

   ➢ **Inaugurate** (verb) –To begin officially; to induct formally into office अभिषेक करना

13. **Fan** (verb) – intensify, increase, agitate, inflame, exacerbate बढ़ाना, अधिक करना

   ➢ **Exonerate** (verb) –To free completely from blame; to exculpate　दोषमुक्त करना

   ➢ **Deride** (verb) –To ridicule; to laugh at contemptuously हंसी उड़ाना, मज़ाक उड़ाना

   ➢ **Relegate** (verb) –To banish; to send away बाहर निकाल देना

14. **Constitute** (verb) – amount to, add up to, account for, form निर्मित करना

   ➢ **Elicit** (verb) –To Bring out; to call forth प्रकाश में लाना

   ➢ **Replenish** (verb) –To fill again; to resupply; to restore फिर से भरना

   ➢ **Extrapolate** (verb) –To project or deduce from something known; to infer अनुमान करना, तर्क करना

15. **Account for** (phrasal verb) – be responsible for, represent, supply, provide, constitute, make up, comprise के लिये उत्तरदयी होना

16. D. Will a letter have been written by him?

17. C. I was advised by the doctor to give up sweets.

18. D. He said, "We are all born to die."

19. D. He told me that he had grown those carrots himself

20. The correct order is PQRS. The paragraph begins by mentioning that NPAs have come down to their lowest levels (P). It then explains that this decrease is accompanied by improvements in capital adequacy of banks and interest coverage ratio of companies (Q). The next sentence acknowledges the possibility of a marginal rise in bad loans due to the end of the pandemic moratorium (R). Finally, the paragraph ends by discussing the persistence of inflation and its effects on purchasing power, emphasizing the need for continued policy vigilance (S)

21. (C)'passing marks' के बदले 'pass mark का प्रयोग होगा। देखें- pass mark (= the mark you need in order to pass an exam.)

> i.  The pass mark was 75%.

- 'pass mark' will be used instead of 'passing marks'. See- pass mark (= the mark you need in order to pass an exam.)
  - i.   The pass mark was 75%.

22. (A) 'knocked' के बाद Preposition 'at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'knock at the door' का प्रयोग होता है किन्तु 'knock on the window' का देखें;-

> i.  Someone is knocking at the door/ on the window.

- After 'knocked' the preposition 'at' will be used because 'knock at the door' is used but 'knock on the window'. see;-
  - i.   Someone is knocking at the door/ on the window.

23. (B) 'will' के बदले 'would' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Indirect Narration में यदि Reporting Verb Past Tense में हो, तो Reported Speech में 'will' के बदले 'would' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

> i.  She said that she would not go to Delhi.

- 'would' will be used instead of 'will' because in Indirect Narration if Reporting Verb is in Past Tense, then 'would' is used instead of 'will' in Reported Speech; As-
  - i.   She said that she would not go to Delhi.

24. (C) 'much' के बदले 'many' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'much' एक Quantitative Adjective है जिसका प्रयोग किसी Uncountable Noun के पहले होता है जबकि 'many' एक Numeral Adjective है जिसका प्रयोग किसी Plural Countable Noun के पहले होता है, जैसे;-

> i.  much water/milk/money, etc.
> ii.  many cars/ scooters/ books/pens, etc.

- 'many' will be used instead of 'much' because 'much' is a Quantitative Adjective which is used before an Uncountable Noun whereas 'many' is a Numeral Adjective which is used before a Plural Countable Noun is, such as;-
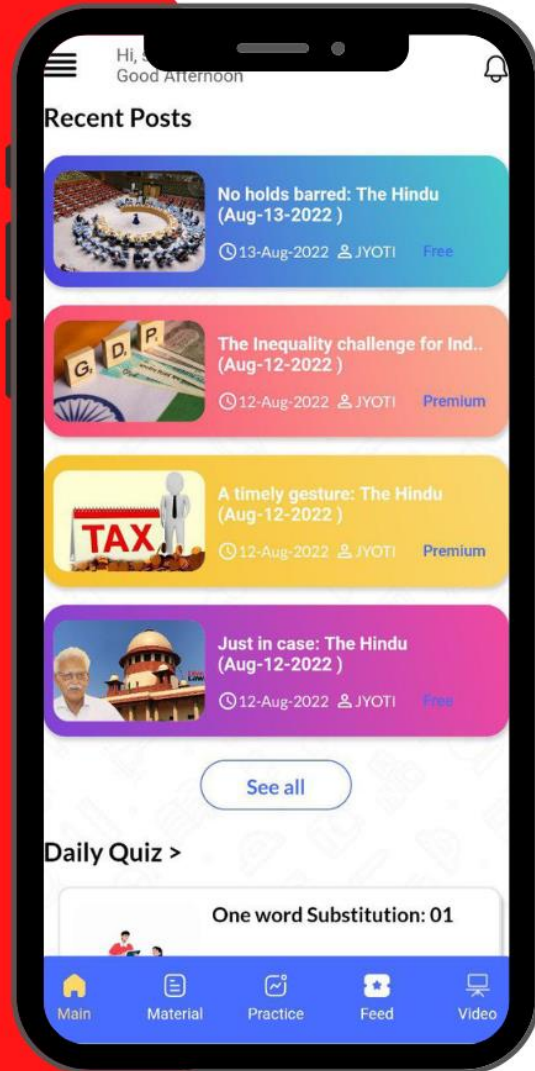  - i.   much water/milk/money, etc.
  - ii.   many cars/ scooters/ books/pens, etc

25. **Espionage** – Practice of employing spies in war जासूसी

> ➤ **Eradicate** – To root out an evil or a bad practice etc उन्मूलन करना

➢ **Sinecure** – An office which has no work but high salary
➢ **Manometer** – An instrument for measuring gaseous pressure मैनोमीटर