

Tripping trade: on India and its trade stance

India must not **rely** on a few large markets, but **opt** for **integration** with **global value chains**

This **financial year** is **off to a subdued start** on the trade **front**. Goods exports **slumped** to \$34.6 billion in April, the lowest since last October — the worst month for **outbound shipments** in 2022-23. This was the third **successive contraction** in exports, and 12.7% below last April's numbers. Imports **shrank** by a sharper 14% to trip to a 15-month low of under \$50 billion. A slowing global economy had been **hurting** exports through the second half of 2022-23, with declines in four of six months. But April's initial **estimates** are troubling not just because they represent the steepest fall in recent months but also **signal** a sudden **shift** in **sequential momentum akin to** the use of emergency handbrakes. This March, despite **lingering** global demand weakness, exports had hit a nine-month high of nearly \$42 billion while imports were \$60 billion. The new Foreign Trade Policy **enunciated** a two trillion-dollar export goal to be achieved in seven years. **Its first month** of implementation **could** not have been off to a **shakier** start. The **prospects** of last year's healthy 14.7% growth that **lifted** total exports to about \$776 billion being **replicated** in 2023-24 **look bleak** already.

One may **draw** some **succour** from the **trade deficit easing** to a 20-month low. But **managing** the trade deficit **cannot** be the goal for **policymakers**. Falling imports also indicate that **domestic demand**, India's **proclaimed insulation** against global **headwinds**, **is ebbing**. **Moreover**, when **imports** of petroleum (down 14%), and gems and jewellery **plummet**, they also affect exports of value-added end products. Petroleum exports shrank 17.5% in April, while jewellery shipments **slipped** at 30%, **marking** the seventh contraction in 10 months even as other job creators such as textiles have been hit hard. **That** commodity prices have **cooled** from last year **is** only one reason for the shrinking trade basket. Officials **concede** there does not seem to be any immediate **respite likely** from **faltering** global demand. China's opening up of the economy may have **prompted** a global trade growth **forecast hike** (from 1% to 1.7%) for 2023 from the **WTO**, but recent Chinese data have been **underwhelming** about the recovery momentum. **Reluctant** European and North American markets are only expected to speed up goods orders by September for the festive season, while services exports that have **held up** through the recent trade **turmoil**, may slow too. India must use this **slack** period to review its overall trade stance, the **reliance** on a few large markets, and **pursue** greater integration with global value chains and **multilateral** trading **arrangements**. These would **yield** better **outcomes** than fresh measures to **hold down** the import bill. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Plummet** (verb) – plunge, fall, drop, tumble गिरावट होना

Vocabulary

1. **Tripping** (adjective) – Stumbling, slipping, tumbling, faltering, lurching डगमगाता
2. **Stance** (noun) – Position, standpoint, perspective, viewpoint, posture दृष्टिकोण
3. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend on, count on, trust in, lean on, bank on निर्भर करना
4. **Opt** (verb) – Choose, select, decide, pick, elect चुनना
5. **Integration** (noun) – Incorporation, amalgamation, unification, merging, combination समाहित करना
6. **Global value chain** (noun) – International trade system, worldwide commerce network, global economic linkages वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखला
7. **Financial year** (noun) – The period between 01 April to 31 March वित्तीय वर्ष
8. **Off to a start** (phrase) – used for saying how something begins
9. **Subdued** (adjective) – Restrained, low-key, muted, toned down, understated दबा हुआ
10. **Front** (noun) – a particular area of activity मोर्चा
11. **Slump** (verb) – Decline, fall, drop, decrease, plummet गिरावट
12. **Outbound** shipment (noun) – Export निर्यातित माल
13. **Successive** (adjective) – Consecutive, sequential, following, subsequent, ensuing क्रमिक
14. **Contraction** (noun) – Reduction, decrease, decline, shrinkage, diminution कटौती/घटाव
15. **Shrink** (verb) – Contract, reduce, diminish, decrease, lessen कम होना
16. **Hurt** (verb) – Damage, harm, injure, wound, impair चोट पहुंचाना
17. **Estimate** (noun) – Approximation, assessment, evaluation, guess, conjecture अनुमान
18. **Signal** (verb) – Indicate, suggest, hint, imply, signify संकेत देना
19. **Shift** (noun) – Change, alteration, modification, transformation परिवर्तन
20. **Sequential** (adjective) – Consecutive, successive, following, in order, serial आनुक्रमिक
21. **Momentum** (noun) – Impetus, force, power, energy, drive गति
22. **Akin** (to) (adjective) – Similar to, like, comparable to, equivalent to, analogous to के समान

23. **Lingering** (adjective) – Lasting, enduring, persistent, prolonged, continuing लंबे समय तक ठहरने वाला
24. **Enunciate** (verb) – Pronounce, articulate, express, state, declare स्पष्ट व्यक्त करना
25. **Shakier** (adjective) – Unsteady, unstable, wobbly, insecure, shaky अस्थिर
26. **Prospect** (noun) – Possibility, likelihood, potential, chance, expectation संभावना
27. **Lift** (verb) – Raise, elevate, hoist, uplift, boost बढ़ाना
28. **Replicate** (verb) – Duplicate, reproduce, copy, mirror, repeat दोहराना
29. **Bleak** (adjective) – Grim, desolate, dismal, discouraging, depressing धूमिल
30. **Draw** (verb) – Extract, derive, pull, obtain, elicit निकालना
31. **Succour** (noun) – Aid, assistance, support, relief, help सहायता
32. **Trade deficit** (noun) – a situation in which the value of goods a country imports is greater than the value of goods it exports
33. **Ease** (verb) – Lessen, alleviate, reduce, relieve, lighten कम करना
34. **Policymaker** (noun) – Lawmaker, legislator, decision-maker, regulator नीतिनिर्माता
35. **Proclaimed** (adjective) – Announced, declared, stated, pronounced घोषित
36. **Insulation** (noun) – Protection, safeguard, shield, defense, barrier सुरक्षा
37. **Headwinds** (noun) – Opposition, resistance, setback, obstacle, hindrance प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियां
38. **Ebb** (verb) – Recede, retreat, withdraw, wane, diminish कम होना
39. **Moreover** (adverb) – Furthermore, in addition, besides, also, additionally इसके अलावा
40. **Slip** (verb) – Slide, glide, skid, stumble, tumble फिसलना, गिर पड़ना
41. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, denote, signify, signal, show चिन्हित करना
42. **Cool** (verb) – Diminish, lessen, reduce, decrease, dwindle घटना
43. **Concede** (verb) – Admit, acknowledge, accept, recognize, grant मानना
44. **Respite** (noun) – Break, pause, interval, relief, rest राहत
45. **Likely** (adjective) – Probable, possible, plausible, feasible, expected संभाव्य
46. **Faltering** (adjective) – Hesitant, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, wavering डगमगाता

47. **Prompt** (verb) – Encourage, cause, lead to, result in, stimulate प्रेरित करना
48. **Forecast** (noun) – Prediction, projection, outlook, estimation, anticipation अनुमान
49. **Hike** (noun) – Increase, rise, boost, increment, elevation बढ़ोतरी
50. **WTO** (noun) – The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
51. **Underwhelming** (adjective) – Unimpressive, lackluster, disappointing, unsatisfying, mediocre असंतोषजनक
52. **Reluctant** (adjective) – Unwilling, hesitant, disinclined, loath, averse अनिच्छुक
53. **Hold up** (phrasal verb) – Sustain, maintain, persevere, continue, endure बनाए रखना
54. **Turmoil** (noun) – Chaos, confusion, upheaval, disorder, tumult उथल-पुथल
55. **Slack** (adjective) – Loose, lax, relaxed, unstrained, शिथिल
56. **Reliance** (noun) – Dependence, trust, confidence, assurance, faith निर्भरता
57. **Pursue** (verb) – Follow, chase, seek, strive for, go after पीछा करना
58. **Multilateral** (adjective) – Many-sided, multi-party, collective, cooperative बहुपक्षीय
59. **Arrangement** (noun) – Plan, preparation, organization, setup, provision व्यवस्था
60. **Yield** (verb) – Produce, generate, give, provide, deliver उत्पन्न करना
61. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, end result, aftermath परिणाम
62. **Hold down** (phrasal verb) – Restrain, control, limit, keep in check, regulate नियंत्रित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. India's financial year has started weakly in terms of trade, with exports dropping to \$34.6 billion in April, a seven-month low.
2. The recent decline marks the third consecutive contraction in exports, 12.7% below the previous year's April figures.
3. Imports have also decreased by 14%, falling to under \$50 billion, the lowest in 15 months.
4. The global economic slowdown in the second half of 2022-23 negatively affected exports, causing a decline in four out of six months.
5. Despite weak global demand, exports in March 2023 reached a nine-month high of nearly \$42 billion, and imports were \$60 billion.
6. The new Foreign Trade Policy, aiming for a two trillion-dollar export goal over seven years, has had a shaky start.
7. The chance of repeating the previous year's 14.7% growth, which raised total exports to around \$776 billion, seems unlikely for 2023-24.
8. The trade deficit has decreased to a 20-month low, which is somewhat positive.
9. However, lower imports suggest weakening domestic demand, which could negatively impact India's economy.
10. Reduced imports of petroleum and gems and jewellery are affecting exports of value-added end products, with petroleum exports declining 17.5% and jewellery exports 30% in April.
11. Officials predict no immediate relief from the weakening global demand, despite China's economic reopening.
12. European and North American markets are expected to increase goods orders only by September for the festive season.
13. The export of services, which has remained stable amid trade turmoil, may also slow down.
14. The editorial suggests that India should use this period to reassess its trade stance and dependence on a few large markets.
15. It advocates for greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading agreements as a better strategy than implementing measures to suppress the import bill.

Practice Exercise: SSC Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following strategies is suggested to improve India's trade situation?** [Editorial page]
 - A. Increasing reliance on domestic demand
 - B. Reducing the import bill through new measures
 - C. Focusing on expanding exports of petroleum and gems
 - D. Pursuing greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements
2. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements best represents the change in India's trade stance in the beginning of the current financial year?**
 - A. India has managed to significantly increase its exports despite a slowing global economy.
 - B. India has maintained a steady trade balance, with exports and imports remaining relatively stable.
 - C. India's imports and exports have both dropped, with exports hitting their lowest since last October.
 - D. India's exports have increased, while imports have decreased significantly.
3. **The tone of the passage can best be described as:**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Persuasive
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Concerned
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The positive impact of global trade on India's economy
 - B. India's successful trade policies and their future implications
 - C. The challenges faced by India's trade and the need for strategic reassessment
 - D. The influence of global economic trends on India's domestic demand
5. **What is a synonym for the word "ebbing" as used in the passage?**
 - A. Receding
 - B. Advancing
 - C. Increasing
 - D. Escalating
6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

My granny says that / it is all right / to get married young, / though I do not absolute agree with her a bit on this.

 - A. to get married young
 - B. My granny says that
 - C. though I do not absolute agree with her a bit on this
 - D. it is quite all right
7. **Select the most appropriate collocating word to fill in the blank.**

She was _____ for her hard work and dedication.

- A. criticized
B. punished
C. rewarded
D. dismissed
8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- P. Essentially a carbon border tax, it is shrouded in green principles of pricing carbon, reducing emissions and preventing carbon leakage to combat global warming.
Q. Earlier this week, EU lawmakers laid the groundwork for the rollout of its proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism from 2026.
R. But in reality it is nothing but a tax against emerging economies like India exporting to the EU.
S. True, the European bloc has ambitious climate targets of cutting greenhouse gases by 55% over this decade and seeks to withdraw free carbon allowances for its most polluting industries.
- A. RPQS
B. QPRS
C. RSPQ
D. QPSR
9. **Parts of a sentence/paragraph are given below. While the first and the last parts (A and F) are in the correct order, the parts in between are jumbled up. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent sentence/paragraph.**
- A. While working from home has become more common,
B. it might not be suitable for everyone,
C. and a better work-life balance,
D. due to potential distractions,
E. as it offers cost savings,
F. and lack of face-to-face interaction with colleagues.
- A. B, E, C, D
B. E, C, B, D
C. C, E, B, D
D. E, B, C, D
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- His cellphone is / different and costlier / than mine.
- A. No error
B. than mine
C. His cellphone is
D. different and costlier
11. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
- After months of arduous practice, the team was finally ready to compete in the championship.
- A. Effortless

- B. Diligent
C. Grueling
D. Strenuous
12. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** for the word 'concise' in the following sentence.
The author's **concise** writing style made the complex subject matter easy to understand.
A. verbose
B. succinct
C. pithy
D. laconic
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice**
Ravish likes chocolate.
A. Chocolate was liked by Ravish.
B. Chocolate is liked by Ravish.
C. Chocolate were liked by Ravish.
D. Chocolate is being liked by Ravish.
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
His _____ for the subject was evident in the way he spoke about it with such passion and depth.
A. predilection
B. demarcation
C. trepidation
D. derogation
15. **Select the correct collocation from the options and complete the sentence**
The new manager decided to _____ the office, implementing a more modern and efficient layout.
A. Do up
B. Bring up
C. Look up
D. Take up
16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person who is unable to pay his debt
A. Economical
B. Irrevocable
C. Curfew
D. Bankrupt
17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Stealing from the writings of others.
A. Incombustible
B. Plagiarism
C. Dyke
D. Intuition
18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**

- She said to her maid, "Clean the utensils properly."
- A. She ordered her maid to clean the utensils properly.
B. She commanded her maid that kindly clean the utensils properly.
C. She orders her maid to clean the utensils properly.
D. She commands her maid that clean the utensils properly.
19. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Dissemlance
B. Incontrovertible
C. Sycophantic
D. Precipitous
20. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- P. Prescribing unnecessary tests at facilities giving doctors commissions in cash or kind is a powerful symptom of how deep this malaise has spread.
Q. India's healthcare sector, potentially a revenue source via medical tourism, is instead gaining the reputation of being one of the most dishonest in the world — Transparency International even ranks healthcare as the second most corrupt institution Indians encounter after police.
R. This is commendable and urgently required.
S. The Society for Less Investigative Medicine, initiated by All India Institute of Medical Sciences doctors, fights unnecessary tests prescribed to patients.
- A. SRPQ
B. RPQS
C. SRQP
D. SQPR
21. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**
Between Raima and Saima, the former is intelligent, while the latter is beautiful.
- A. letter is
B. later is
C. No substitution required
D. later was
22. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- P. The proposal to dramatically hike charges for surface parking at sites where multilevel parking facilities are available is a good one.
Q. The point of constructing these facilities, after all is to decongest the area.
R. If they are to lie unused while vehicles continue to be parked where they were even after they are constructed, it would mean pouring public money down the drain.
S. Indeed, where surface parking at such sites is on road space, it should not be allowed at all.
- A. PQSR
B. QRSP
C. SRQP

D. PQRS

23. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

- P. They gobble up fast every follow-up titbit in Potterverse as soon as J K Rowling puts it out there.
 - Q. Her latest offering at this altar is a short story penned in the avatar of Rita Skeeter – if you don't know she's a vicious gossip columnist, you got to study up mate.
 - R. One social networking group defines itself thus: 3 heroes, 7 books, 8 movies, 10 years, we are the Harry Potter generation.
 - S. Plus there are a legion of fans who don't sign on to such online communities but do keep returning to those 7 books and 8 movies, again and again.
- A. RSQP
 - B. RSPQ
 - C. PQRS
 - D. PRQS

24. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

- P. Despite the run-up to the mega sporting event being anything but smooth — from the lackadaisical state of preparedness of stadiums to allegations of corruption, serious questions were raised over the host nation's ability to deliver — Brazilians' 'jeitinho' or ability to improvise solutions carried through the \$13 billion tournament.
 - Q. The greatest show on earth just ended.
 - R. It has seen the demise of greats and the democratisation of football.
 - S. Brazil 2014 belied fears that the Fifa World Cup's return to South America would be marred by mass protests and technical glitches.
- A. QRSP
 - B. RSPQ
 - C. QRPS
 - D. SQPR

25. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

No pain, no gain

- A. To avoid suffering, one must avoid taking risks.
- B. Success requires hard work and occasional discomfort.
- C. Painful experiences are necessary for personal growth.
- D. To make progress, one must focus on the negative aspects of life

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- D) Pursuing greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements**

The passage suggests that India's trade deficit is not the primary concern, and that the falling imports are indicative of a decrease in domestic demand. It also indicates that simply reducing imports of certain goods like petroleum and gems does not help, as it also affects exports. Instead, the passage suggests that India should use the current situation to review its trade stance and pursue greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements. Therefore, option D is the correct answer.
- C) India's imports and exports have both dropped, with exports hitting their lowest since last October.**

The passage discusses how the start of the current financial year has been subdued for India in terms of trade. It mentions that goods exports have slumped to their lowest since last October and this marks the third successive contraction in exports. Similarly, imports have also reduced by a significant 14%, dropping to a 15-month low. Therefore, it can be concluded that both India's imports and exports have dropped, which is represented by option C.
- D) Concerned**

The tone of the passage is concerned. The author expresses worry over India's recent trade performance and its reliance on a few large markets. The author suggests that India should take advantage of the current trade slowdown to review its overall trade stance and pursue greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements.
- C) The challenges faced by India's trade and the need for strategic reassessment**

The passage discusses the recent challenges faced by India's trade, including a slump in goods exports and imports, and a slowdown in domestic demand. The author expresses concern over these issues and suggests that India should reassess its trade stance, reduce reliance on a few large markets, and pursue greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements. This makes option C the main theme of the passage.
- A) Receding**

Ebb (verb) – Recede, decline, diminish, dwindle कम होना

In the context of the passage, "ebbing" is used to describe the declining domestic demand. "Ebbing" refers to lessening or weakening, so "receding" is the best synonym for "ebbing" in this context as it also means to move back or decrease.
- C) 'absolute' के बदले 'absolutely' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि verb 'agree' कि विशेषता, बताने के लिए एक adverb की जरूरत है! ध्यान रखे की absolute एक adjective है, जबकि absolutely एक adverb.**

7. C) rewarded

- **Criticize** (verb) – Rebuke, denounce, castigate, berate, lambaste कटु आलोचना करना
- **Punish** (verb) – Penalize, discipline, chastise, reprimand, castigate सज़ा देना
- **Reward** (verb) – Compensate, remunerate, recompense, honor, award पुरस्कार देना
- **Dismiss** (verb) – Discharge, terminate, release, oust, remove बरखास्त करना

8. QPRS

Earlier this week, EU lawmakers laid the groundwork for the rollout of its proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism from 2026. Essentially a carbon border tax, it is shrouded in green principles of pricing carbon, reducing emissions and preventing carbon leakage to combat global warming. But in reality it is nothing but a tax against emerging economies like India exporting to the EU. True, the European bloc has ambitious climate targets of cutting greenhouse gases by 55% over this decade and seeks to withdraw free carbon allowances for its most polluting industries.

9. B) E, C, B, D

Explanation: Explanation: The correct arrangement of sentence parts is "While working from home has become more common, as it offers cost savings and a better work-life balance, it might not be suitable for everyone, due to potential distractions and lack of face-to-face interaction with colleagues."

10. D) 'Different' के बाद 'from' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Different' के बाद उपयुक्त preposition 'from' आता है!

- He is senior to and older than I.
- His dress is different from and cheaper than mine.

11. A. Effortless

- **Arduous** (adjective) – Laborious, strenuous, grueling, taxing, demanding कठिन
- **Diligent** (adjective) – Industrious, hardworking, assiduous, persistent, persevering परिश्रमी
- **Grueling** (adjective) – Exhausting, tiring, wearing, demanding, punishing कठोर
- **Strenuous** (adjective) – Rigorous, intense, energetic, forceful, vigorous कठोर

12. A) **Verbose** (adjective) – Wordy, longwinded, effusive, garrulous शब्दाडंबरपूर्ण

- **Concise** (adjective) – Brief, succinct, compact, laconic, to the point संक्षेप में
- **Succinct** (adjective) – Concise, brief, pithy, laconic, compact संक्षिप्त
- **Pithy** (adjective) – Succinct, concise, terse, laconic, compact सारगर्भित
- **Laconic** (adjective) – Terse, brief, succinct, concise, pithy संक्षिप्त

13. B) Chocolate is liked by Ravish.

14. A) **Predilection**

- **Predilection** (noun) – Preference, fondness, partiality, affinity, inclination पूर्वाग्रह/ झुकाव
- **Demarcation** (noun) – Separation, distinction, differentiation, division, boundary विभाजन/ सीमांकन
- **Trepidation** (noun) – Anxiety, fear, apprehension, dread, unease घबराहट
- **Derogation** (noun) – Disparagement, belittlement, depreciation, denigration अपमान

15. A) **Do up**

- **Do up** (phrasal verb) – To renovate or improve something, particularly a building or room. मरम्मत करना
- **Bring up** (phrasal verb) – To raise a topic or issue in conversation. विषय उठाना
- **Look up** (phrasal verb) – To search for information or consult a reference source. ढूँढना
- **Take up** (phrasal verb) – To begin or start a new activity or hobby. शुरू करना (गतिविधि/ शौक)

16. **Bankrupt/insolvent** – A person who is unable to pay his debt दिवालिया

- **Economical** – One who is careful in the use of money/fuel etc किफ़ायती
- **Irrevocable** – That which cannot be altered अपरिवर्तनीय
- **Curfew** – An order that certain activities/ Movement are prohibited कर्फ्यू

17. **Plagiarism** – Stealing from the writings of others. साहित्यिक चोरी

- **Dyke** – A wall built to prevent the sea or a river from flooding an area नहर
- **Intuition** – Immediate response by the mind without reasoning अंतर्ज्ञान

18. A) She ordered her maid to clean the utensils properly

19. A. **Dissembalance**

- **Dissembalance** (noun) – Disguise, pretense, feigning, concealment, dissimulation ढोंग
- **Incontrovertible** (noun) – Undeniable, indisputable, irrefutable, unquestionable, unassailable निर्विवाद
- **Sycophantic** (noun) – Obsequious, fawning, servile, groveling, flattering चापलूस
- **Precipitous** (noun) – Steep, abrupt, sheer, sharp, sudden आकस्मिक

20. **SRQP**

The Society for Less Investigative Medicine, initiated by All India Institute of Medical Sciences doctors, fights unnecessary tests prescribed to patients. This is commendable and urgently required. India's healthcare sector, potentially a revenue source via medical tourism, is instead gaining the reputation of being one of the most dishonest in the world — Transparency International even ranks healthcare as the second most corrupt institution Indians encounter

after police. Prescribing unnecessary tests at facilities giving doctors commissions in cash or kind is a powerful symptom of how deep this malaise has spread.

21. C) No substitution required

The Latter – the second of two people, things, or groups previously mentioned

22. **PQRS**

The proposal to dramatically hike charges for surface parking at sites where multilevel parking facilities are available is a good one. The point of constructing these facilities, after all is to decongest the area. If they are to lie unused while vehicles continue to be parked where they were even after they are constructed, it would mean pouring public money down the drain. Indeed, where surface parking at such sites is on road space, it should not be allowed at all.

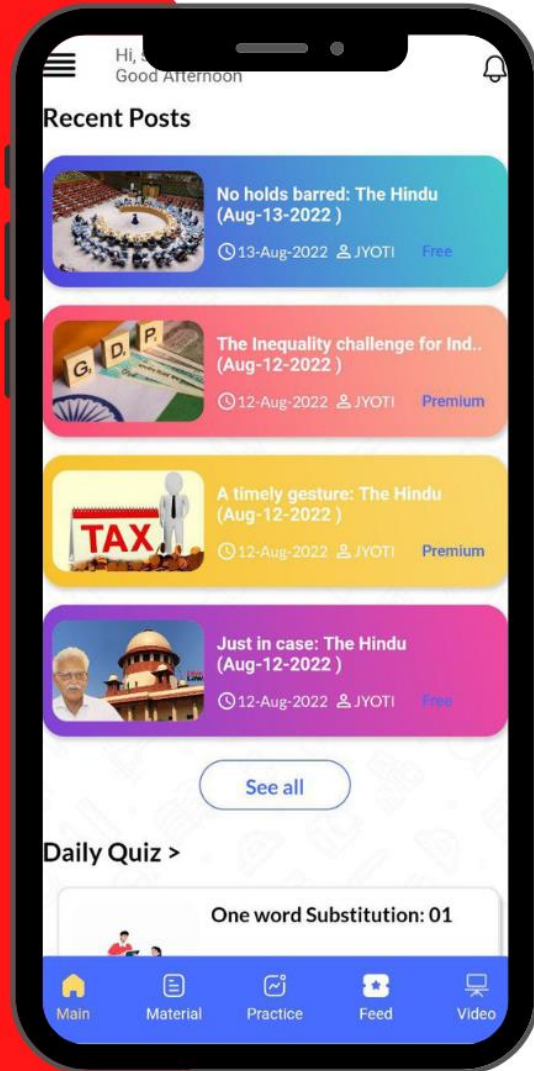
23. **RSPQ**

One social networking group defines itself thus: 3 heroes, 7 books, 8 movies, 10 years, we are the Harry Potter generation. Plus there are a legion of fans who don't sign on to such online communities but do keep returning to those 7 books and 8 movies, again and again. They gobble up fast every follow-up titbit in Potterverse as soon as J K Rowling puts it out there. Her latest offering at this altar is a short story penned in the avatar of Rita Skeeter – if you don't know she's a vicious gossip columnist, you got to study up mate

24. **QRSP**

The greatest show on earth just ended. It has seen the demise of greats and the democratisation of football. Brazil 2014 belied fears that the Fifa World Cup's return to South America would be marred by mass protests and technical glitches. Despite the run-up to the mega sporting event being anything but smooth — from the lackadaisical state of preparedness of stadiums to allegations of corruption, serious questions were raised over the host nation's ability to deliver — Brazilians' 'jeitinho' or ability to improvise solutions carried through the \$13 billion tournament

25. **No pain, no gain** (phrase) – Success requires hard work and occasional discomfort. बिना कष्ट किये फल नहीं मिलता



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