

Warming warning: On the World Meteorological Organization projections for temperature trends

India must invest in **infrastructure** that **boosts** defence against **disasters**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued its annual update on its projections for temperature trends in the next **decade**. The **prognosis**, expectedly, is worrying. The annual mean global near-surface **temperature** for each year between 2023 and 2027 **is** likely to be 1.1°-1.8°C higher than the average from 1850-1900. There is a 66% chance that the global near-surface temperature will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in at least one year before 2027 though it is **unlikely** that the five-year mean will exceed this **threshold**. **The 1.5°C threshold**, the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** has repeatedly said, **is** one that is best left **unbreached** to avoid the **disastrous consequences** of **global warming**. While **world leaders** at climate **summits** **are in agreement**, few of their actions are **consistent** with keeping temperature-rise within this **rubicon**, with current climate policies **poised** to heat the **globe** beyond 2°C by the end of the **century**.

At least one of the years, the WMO adds, from 2023 to 2027 will be the hottest on record — exceeding the 14.84°C reported in 2016 (it was about 0.07°C warmer than the previous record set in 2015). The five-year mean for 2023-2027 was very **likely** to be higher than that in the last five years (2018-2022). The oceans too are **on fire**. The **El Niño-Southern Oscillation** (ENSO) is likely to be positive in December to February 2023-24, meaning that the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean is likely to be at least half a degree, more likely over a degree above what is normal. India is **bracing** for this El Niño during the monsoon, with the India Meteorological Department already indicating that monsoon rainfall will be on the lower side of 'normal'. The El Niño "will combine with **human-induced** climate change to push global temperatures into **uncharted territory**", WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a press statement **in the context of** the update. Hotter oceans also mean stronger cyclones. **Cyclone Mocha**, which **barrelled** through Myanmar this week and **claimed** at least 60 lives and **wrought severe** damage, **ended up** being stronger than what was initially **estimated**. The WMO update does not have specific **inputs** for India; however, the overall trend in indicators suggests that **India**, dependent as it is on **rain-fed** agriculture and with its long **coastline**, **will** be **severely** tested due to changes in the global climate. India's **abilities** at **forecasting** cyclones and weather **anomalies** **have** improved but developing **resilience** is far more challenging. Greater **investments** in **bolstering** disaster-related infrastructure **are the need of the hour**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** (noun) – an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the roots of which were planted at the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
2. **Projection** (noun) – Forecast, plan, prognosis, prediction, estimate पूर्वानुमान
3. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, structure, foundation, base, system संरचना
4. **Boost** (verb) – Enhance, uplift, increase, raise, promote बढ़ावा देना
5. **Disaster** (noun) – Catastrophe, tragedy, calamity, mishap, misfortune आपदा
6. **Decade** (noun) – Ten years, tenner दशक
7. **Prognosis** (noun) – Outlook, forecast, prediction, anticipation भविष्यवाणी
8. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, doubtful, not likely असंभाव्य
9. **Threshold** (noun) – Limit, boundary, borderline, brink सीमा
10. **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** (noun) – the leading international body for assessment of climate change. It is a key source of scientific information and technical guidance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement.
11. **Unbreached** (adjective) – Unbroken, intact, undamaged अखंड
12. **Disastrous** (adjective) – Devastating, harmful, damaging, catastrophic विनाशकारी
13. **Consequence** (noun) – Result, outcome, effect, aftermath परिणाम
14. **Global warming** (noun) – A long-term increase in Earth's average temperature वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि
15. **Summit** (noun) – Meeting, conference, gathering शिखर सम्मेलन
16. **In agreement** (phrase) – In concurrence, in accordance, like-minded, in accord सहमत
17. **Consistent** (adjective) – Steady, stable, constant, regular निरंतर
18. **Rubicon** (noun) – Point of no return, a limit that when passed or exceeded permits of no return निर्वर्तमान सीमा
19. **Poise** (to) (verb) – be ready and prepared to do something. तैयार होना
20. **Globe** (noun) – Earth पृथ्वी
21. **Century** (noun) – 100 years शताब्दी
22. **Likely** (adjective) – Probable, possible, likely to happen संभाव्य

23. **On fire** (phrase) – Burning, aflame, blazing
आग पर
24. **El Nino-Southern Oscillation** (ENSO) (noun) – a recurring climate pattern involving changes in the temperature of waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
25. **Brace** (for) (verb) – Prepare, gear up, get ready, steel oneself तैयार होना
26. **Human-induced** (adjective) – Man-made, anthropogenic, human-caused, human-generated मानव निर्मित
27. **Uncharted** (adjective) – Unmapped, unexplored, unknown, undiscovered अनजान
28. **Territory** (noun) – Area, region, province, zone, sector क्षेत्र
29. **In the context of** (phrase) – With regard to, in relation to, concerning, regarding के संदर्भ में
30. **Barrel** (verb) – Speed, race, rush, dash, hurry तेजी से चलना
31. **Claim** (verb) – Take the lives of ले लेना (ज़िंदगियाँ)
32. **Wrought** (verb) – Do, perform, bring about, cause घटित करना
33. **Severe** (adjective) – Extreme, intense, serious, harsh कठोर
34. **End up** (phrasal verb) – Culminate, result, lead, finish up अंत में होना
35. **Estimate** (verb) – Guess, gauge, calculate, reckon, judge अनुमान लगाना
36. **Input** (noun) – a contribution of work or information.
37. **Rain-fed** (adjective) – Rain-dependent, pluviometric, reliant on precipitation बारिश पर निर्भर
38. **Coastline** (noun) – Seashore, seaside, beach, coast समुद्रतट
39. **Severely** (adverb) – Seriously, very badly, gravely, harshly कठोरता से
40. **Forecast** (verb) – Predict, foresee, anticipate, project भविष्यवाणी करना
41. **Anomaly** (noun) – Irregularity, abnormality, deviation, variation विसंगति
42. **Resilience** (noun) – Flexibility, adaptability, durability, strength मज़बूती
43. **Bolster** (verb) – Support, strengthen, boost, reinforce मज़बूत करना
44. **The need of the hour** (phrase) – Immediate requirement, urgent need, pressing need, current demand समय की मांग

Summary of the Editorial

1. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released its annual update on temperature trends for the next decade.
2. Projections show the global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 will be 1.1°-1.8°C higher than the 1850-1900 average.
3. There's a 66% chance that global temperatures will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels at least once before 2027.
4. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned against breaching this 1.5°C threshold to prevent severe global warming effects.
5. Current actions by world leaders don't seem to align with keeping the temperature rise within this limit, with predictions pointing to a 2°C rise by the end of the century.
6. WMO anticipates one of the years between 2023 and 2027 will break the current record for the hottest year, which stands at 14.84°C in 2016.
7. The five-year mean temperature for 2023-2027 is also expected to be higher than the last five years (2018-2022).
8. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is forecasted to be positive in December to February 2023-24, implying warmer than usual Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean temperatures.
9. India, already expecting a weaker monsoon due to El Niño, must brace for the potential impacts of this weather phenomenon.
10. WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas, warns that El Niño combined with human-induced climate change could push global temperatures into uncharted territory.
11. Warmer oceans could also lead to stronger cyclones, as exemplified by the recent Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar, which was more powerful than initially estimated.
12. While the WMO update lacks specific data for India, the trend suggests India could face severe challenges due to its reliance on rain-fed agriculture and its extensive coastline.
13. Despite improvements in India's weather and cyclone forecasting capabilities, the country's resilience development is still a significant challenge.
14. There's an urgent need for India to invest more in disaster-related infrastructure to better cope with the effects of climate change.
15. The editorial emphasizes that bolstering defense against disasters through infrastructure investments is crucial for India given these warming warnings.

Practice Exercise: SSC Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following best demonstrates an application of critical thinking related to global warming and temperature trends?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Continually monitoring the global temperature trends to ascertain the likelihood of exceeding the 1.5°C threshold
 - B. Acknowledging that the earth's surface temperature is likely to increase in the next few years
 - C. Participating in international climate summits to show solidarity for global warming issues
 - D. Assessing the alignment of current climate policies with the goal of maintaining global temperature rise within the 1.5°C threshold, and formulating strategies to ensure this goal is achieved
 2. **Based on the passage, which of the following is most likely to contribute to India's future challenges in the context of global warming?**
 - A. The improvement of India's abilities at forecasting cyclones and weather anomalies.
 - B. The combination of the El Niño effect and human-induced climate change.
 - C. The WMO's update lacking specific inputs for India.
 - D. The decreased investments in disaster-related infrastructure.
 3. **What tone does the author primarily use in the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Concerned
 - D. Excited
 4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The incompetency of world leaders in handling climate issues.
 - B. The significant improvement in India's cyclone and weather anomaly forecasting.
 - C. The prediction of increased global temperatures and its potential effects.
 - D. The need for greater investment in disaster-related infrastructure.
 5. Which of the following is a synonym for the term "**rubicon**" as used in the passage?
 - A. Vehicle
 - B. River
 - C. Boundary
 - D. Rebellion
 6. Which of the following is an antonym for the term "**bolstering**" as it is used in the passage?
 - A. Weakening
 - B. Supporting
 - C. Strengthening
 - D. Reinforcing
- Direction: (Q7- Q10) Find out error, if any**
7. The minister for Education (A)/ vehemently refused (B)/ the allegation that he had taken bribes(C)/ No Error. (D)
 8. If I were Lalit (A)/ I would not attend (B)/ the wedding. (C)/ No Error. (D)

9. He says that (A)/ he reads novels (B)/ to pass away the time. (C)/ No Error. (D)
10. He left for Mumbai on Sunday (A)/ arriving there (B)/ on Monday (C) /No Error. (D)

Comprehension

In the first coronation in the country in 70 years, a _____1_____ ceremony comprising 2,300 guests including more than 100 heads of state, Charles III has been crowned King of the United Kingdom. The event marked the culmination of plans that were set in motion last September upon the passing of King Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II. During the seven decades of her reign, emerging post-colonial nations grew in self-confidence, and some challenged the idea of the Commonwealth, while at home, the traditional public _____2_____ to the monarchy faded, requiring the members of the royal family to reposition themselves as good _____3_____ working towards the greater good of British society. King Charles, in his prior avatar as the Prince of Wales, was quick to embrace the successive waves of change, particularly when it came to climate change and the environment. As a _____4_____ supporter of sustainable ecosystems and architecture, he has _____5_____ for organically maintained parks and natural reserves in the U.K. Under the aegis of the Prince's Trust, which operates under a royal charter to help disadvantaged youth in the U.K., more than a million young people had benefited by 2020.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.

- A. Flourish
- B. Sentient
- C. Lavish
- D. Prudent

12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.

- A. Denounce
- B. Deference
- C. Renounce
- D. Enhance

13. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.

- A. Incongruous
- B. Cleavage
- C. Samaritans
- D. Miller

14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.

- A. Passionate
- B. Navigate
- C. Irate
- D. Proximate

15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.

- A. Predate
- B. Advocated
- C. Isolate

D. Initiate

16. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. However, going for an extreme adventure sport like bungy jumping for the first time can raise countless doubts about the risks, precautions and things to follow for an adventurous experience.
- Q. The adventure sports industry including bungy jumping has gained tremendous heights in the post-pandemic era and thanks to digitalization there is a bundle of pages and celebrity influencers sharing their personal experience for beginners to experience the adrenaline rush beautifully.
- R. According to research by Business Insider, the adventure sports industry has 490 million participants across the globe and produces USD 200 billion every year.
- S. To experience the thrill of a bold and daring way of life amidst breathtaking landscapes, you need not worry about how to get started and what is needed to get started.

A. QPSR B. QRPS C. SQPR D. PRQS

17. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. But whenever there is a choice option in hand, it carries equal probability of use and misuse.
- Q. That makes the mind vulnerable to act as a double-edged weapon - susceptible to act either way.
- R. Mind, even though has a dependant status, but at the same time, it does also enjoy a certain level of operational independence.
- S. For, it enjoys the freedom to guide our actions by choice and discrimination.

A. RSQP B. QPSR C. RSPQ D. SPRQ

18. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. In the words of William Shakespeare: "Our bodies are our gardens — our wills are our gardeners."
- Q. In this fast-paced world, the term wellness isn't restricted to a trend; rather it has become a way of maintaining a healthy and balanced life.
- R. Various aspects of wellbeing (such as physical, social, economic, emotional, psychological and many more, have sprung out from mental health.
- S. It is mental health that lays the foundation for all wellbeing.

A. PQRS B. QRSP C. SRQP D. SPRQ

19. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. I celebrated Nepal's New Year in Pokhara covered in a perpetual haze obscuring the splendour of the iconic Machhapuchhre (Fishtail Mountain),
- Q. which is also the presiding deity of the valley which was recently blessed with a Chinese-built international airport that threatens to become a white elephant
- R. a six-lane highway over five years till when dust kicked up by earthmovers and forest fires will keep Machhapuchhre shrouded
- S. The Chinesebuilt Pokhara-Kathmandu road is being turned into

A. QRSP B. PSRQ C. QSRP D. PQSR

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

- P. At a very young age, children got to confront the Malthusian nightmare.
- Q. A few decades ago, the prospect of India overtaking China as the world's most populous nation would have horrified most people in our country.
- R. The challenges of uncontrollable population growth were taught in schools.
- S. Population was regarded as one of the biggest problems the country was facing.

A. QRSP

B.QSRP

C.PSQR

D.PRQS

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **D. Assessing the alignment of current climate policies with the goal of maintaining global temperature rise within the 1.5°C threshold, and formulating strategies to ensure this goal is achieved**

Critical thinking involves the ability to analyze, evaluate, and draw conclusions from a given piece of information. In the context of this passage, option D requires the application of such critical thinking. While options A and B involve observation and acknowledgment of the issue, they don't require the analysis and planning that critical thinking requires. Option C, although demonstrating participation, lacks the evaluative and strategic approach that is core to critical thinking. Therefore, option D is the best answer as it requires evaluating the effectiveness of current strategies (climate policies) and potentially devising new ones to achieve a specific goal (maintaining global temperature rise within the 1.5°C threshold)

2. **B. The combination of the El Niño effect and human-induced climate change.**

According to the passage, the El Niño effect, which causes an increase in sea temperature, and human-induced climate change are expected to drive global temperatures into uncharted territory. This, combined with India's reliance on rain-fed agriculture and its long coastline, is likely to present severe challenges. Option A is incorrect as the passage suggests that India's abilities at forecasting have improved, which would likely help in managing these challenges. Option C is incorrect as the lack of specific inputs doesn't directly contribute to the challenges. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not state that investments in disaster-related infrastructure have decreased; instead, it calls for greater investments.

3. **C. Concerned**

The tone of the passage is concerned. The author shares worrying information from the World Meteorological Organization about the projections for temperature trends in the next decade. Words and phrases like "worrying", "disastrous consequences", "hotter oceans mean stronger cyclones" etc., express a sense of urgency and concern about the increasing global temperature and its effects on the environment

4. **C. The prediction of increased global temperatures and its potential effects.**

The main theme of the passage is the prediction of increased global temperatures and its potential effects. The passage revolves around the World Meteorological Organization's projection of temperature trends and the likely consequences, including the possibility of the earth's surface temperature exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels before 2027, the effect on oceans, and the potential impact on India. Although other themes are mentioned, they are subordinate to this central theme.

5. **C. Boundary**

In the context of the passage, 'rubicon' refers to a limit that should not be passed or a point of no return. Here, it signifies the limit of 1.5°C temperature rise which should not be crossed to avoid disastrous consequences. Therefore, 'Boundary' is a synonym for 'rubicon' in this context.

6. A. Weakening

Bolster (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, encourage, support, augment, sustain मजबूत करना

In this context, 'bolstering' refers to the strengthening or supporting of disaster-related infrastructure. Therefore, an antonym for 'bolstering' would be a word that means to reduce the strength or support. 'Weakening' is an antonym for 'bolstering'.

7. (B) 'refused' के बदले 'denied' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'refuse' का अर्थ है 'अस्वीकार करना' जबकि 'deny' का अर्थ है 'किसी चीज की सत्यता मानना'। किसी के 'प्रस्ताव', 'माँग', 'भेंट' को 'refuse' किया जाता है जबकि किसी 'अभियोग', 'आरोप' को 'deny' किया जाता है; जैसे-

i. He offered her a diamond ring but she refused to take it.

ii. She hotly denied all the charges brought against herself.

- 'denied' will be used instead of 'refused' because 'refuse' means 'to reject' while 'deny' means 'believe the truth of something'. One's 'offer', 'demand', 'offer' is 'refuse' while 'deny' is used to 'propose', 'accuse'; like-

i. He offered her a diamond ring but she refused to take it.

ii. She hotly denied all the charges brought against herself.

8. (D) No error.

9. (C) 'to pass away the time' के बदले 'to pass the time' या 'to pass time' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'to pass the time' या 'to pass time' का प्रयोग होता है जिसका अर्थ 'उबाऊपन से बचने के लिए समय गुजारना'।

- 'to pass away the time' shall be substituted with 'to pass the time' or 'to pass time' as 'to pass the time' or 'to pass time' is used which means " boredom " To pass the time to escape.

10. (B) 'arriving' के बदले 'to arrive' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि purpose (उद्देश्य) बताने के लिए Infinitive का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

i. He left for America to participate in an International Seminar.

- 'to arrive' will be used instead of 'arriving' because Infinitive is used to indicate purpose; like-

i. He left for America to participate in an International Seminar.

11. **Lavish** (adjective) – Luxurious, opulent, sumptuous, grand, extravagant शानदार

- **Flourish** (verb) – Thrive, Prosper, Bloom, Grow, Develop पनपना
- **Sentient** (adjective) – Conscious, aware, intelligent, perceptive संवेदनशील
- **Prudent** (adjective) – Wise, judicious, sensible, cautious, circumspect विवेकी

12. **Deference** (noun) – Respect, regard, esteem, reverence, veneration सम्मान
- **Denounce** (verb) – Condemn, criticize, censure, attack निंदा करना
 - **Renounce** (verb) – Reject, disown, abandon, relinquish, give up त्यागना
 - **Enhance** (verb) – Improve, boost, elevate, enrich, augment बढ़ाना
13. **Samaritan** (noun) – Good person, helper, supporter, benefactor, aid अच्छा मददगार व्यक्ति
- **Incongruous** (adjective) – Inconsistent, incompatible, unsuitable, discordant असंगत
 - **Cleavage** (noun) – division or disagreement दरार
 - **Miller** (noun) – Grinder, processor, pulverizer, crusher चक्की-मालिक
14. **Passionate** (adjective) – Enthusiastic, ardent, fervent, zealous, fervid उत्साही
- **Navigate** (verb) – Maneuver, steer, guide, pilot नियंत्रित करना
 - **Irate** (adjective) – Angry, infuriated, incensed, enraged, fuming क्रोधित
 - **Proximate** (adjective) – Immediate, nearest, closest, direct, adjoining निकटतम
15. **Advocate** (verb) – Support, promote, champion, endorse, recommend समर्थन करना
- **Predate** (verb) – Antedate, precede, come before, exist before, be earlier than से पहले होना
 - **Isolate** (verb) – Separate, segregate, detach, disconnect, set apart अलग करना
 - **Initiate** (verb) – Begin, commence, start, launch प्रारंभ करना
16. **B) QRPS**
- Q:** This is the first sentence because it introduces the topic - the popularity of adventure sports like bungy jumping in the post-pandemic era
- R:** This sentence follows Q because it provides specific information (numbers) about the popularity of adventure sports mentioned in Q.
- P:** This is next because it shifts the focus from the popularity and business side of adventure sports to the personal experience of trying them.
- S:** This is the last sentence because it connects to the idea in P about trying adventure sports for the first time, and it starts addressing the concerns someone might have.
17. **C) RSPQ**
- R:** This is a good starting sentence because it introduces the main subject of the discussion - the mind, and it states that it has a certain level of independence.
- S:** This sentence logically follows R because it explains how the mind uses its independence - it can guide our actions by making choices.
- P:** After establishing that the mind has the power to make choices in sentence S, this sentence explains the consequences of that power - the choice can be used well or misused.

Q: This is the conclusion. It summarizes the earlier points by comparing the mind to a double-edged weapon, which means it can have both good and bad outcomes, depending on how it's used

18. A) PQRS

In the words of William Shakespeare: "Our bodies are our gardens — our wills are our gardeners." In this fast-paced world, the term wellness isn't restricted to a trend; rather it has become a way of maintaining a healthy and balanced life. Various aspects of wellbeing (such as physical, social, economic, emotional, psychological and many more, have sprung out from mental health. It is mental health that lays the foundation for all wellbeing.

The best order for the sentences is PQRS, because they start by talking about health in general (P and Q), and then focus more specifically on mental health (R and S).

19. D) PQSR

P: The first sentence tells us that the person celebrated Nepal's New Year in Pokhara, a city in Nepal. It also talks about a mountain named Machhapuchhre that's hidden in haze.

Q: The second sentence is connected to the first because it continues to talk about Pokhara and the mountain, Machhapuchhre. It also introduces a new topic, which is a new airport built by China

S: The third sentence it tells us that the road being built is also a project by China, and it's connecting Pokhara to Kathmandu.

R: Fourth sentence is linked to the third because because it tells us why there is dust and haze in the air, hiding the mountain. The dust is coming from construction work on a new road.

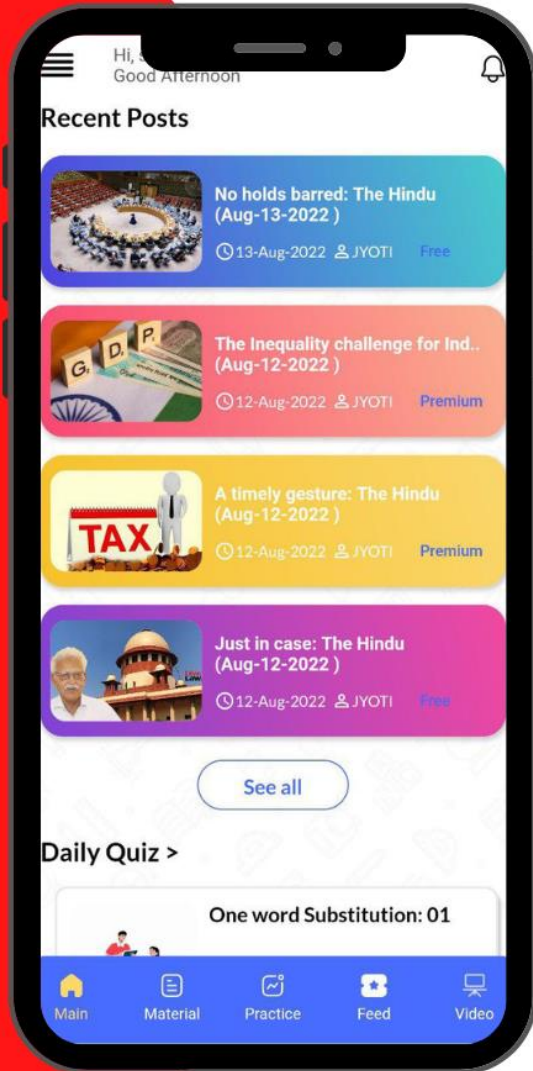
20. B) QSRP

Q: This sentence is the first one because it talks about something that happened "a few decades ago". It's talking about how people in our country would have been very scared if they thought India might have more people than China

S: The second sentence is a reason why people were scared. It's saying that people thought having too many people (population) was a big problem for our country. It connects to the first sentence because both talk about people's worries about the population

R: This sentence tells us that schools were teaching children about the problems of too many people. This is related to the second sentence because both are about the challenges of having too many people.

P: The last sentence tells us that even young children had to think about this scary idea of too many people. This idea, called the "Malthusian nightmare," is linked to what they were learning in schools, which is why this sentence follows the third one



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