

## The next step: On Manipur and the path to normalcy

Ethnicisation and poor governance are **stumbling blocks** to peace in Manipur

In the **aftermath** of a conflict, a return to normalcy must be a necessary basis to **address** the **grievances** of the affected parties that **led to** the conflict **in the first place**. There cannot be any **redress** when groups engage in **wanton** and **targeted** violence against each other, use **blockades** to prevent the transport of supplies, and continue to prevent **displaced** people from getting back to their homes. Return to normalcy is the first step before grievances are heard to prevent another conflict from emerging. And **in order to effect** the first step, **peace talks** between **eminent** representatives — from civil society and political parties — in the conflict and **tamping down** any **embers** of violence that might continue **following** the **conflagration** **are a must**. The **presence** of **paramilitary** forces and the **appeal** for peace by Union Home Minister Amit Shah after a visit to the tribal and the Imphal valley areas **have** helped **stem** the violence to an extent even if **sporadic incidents** of **ethnic** violence and **arson** **have** continued a month after the conflagration in Churachandpur, Imphal and other areas. But in terms of setting the conditions of peace which would **entail** the return of **looted** arms and the slow and sure return of those displaced to their **battered** homes, there has been little progress.

The Union government's **constitution** of a peace committee comprising eminent public figures in the State **has hit a snag** with many of them refusing to join it or suggesting that they have been added to the committee without prior consultation. The success of a peace initiative requires that all groups in a conflict are represented and includes representatives with **public standing** or a record that **transcends** their **identities**. The **withdrawal** of quite a few public figures from this initiative unfortunately **reveals** the ethnicisation of civil society in Manipur and **complicates** peace building. More **worryingly**, Kuki-Zo representatives have **expressly** withdrawn their names as the committee included the Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, while a Meitei civil society group has **raked up** an **unwarranted generalisation** of the issue as one related to "narco-terrorism" to withdraw from the committee. The government should still not **give up on persuading prominent** political and civil society representatives to talk with one another. **The fact that** it requires the **aegis** of the Union government to **push the envelope on** any further step on this issue also reveals the failure of the Biren Singh administration in retaining the confidence of all parties. It seems that it is time for the Union government and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to think of an alternative leadership that could **ease** the process of peace building as Mr Singh's **actions**, both in the **run-up to** the violence and in its aftermath, **have** either been **ineffectual** or **shown up** an inability to **govern** effectively. **[Practice]**

- **Constitution** (noun) – Composition, make-up, structure, constituent गठन करना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Normalcy** (noun) – the condition of being normal; the state of being usual, typical, or expected. साधारण अवस्था
2. **Ethnicisation** (noun) – The act or process of making or becoming ethnic
3. **Governance** (noun) – the action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc. शासन
4. **Stumbling block** (noun) – Obstacle, difficult, problem, barrier, snag, hindrance बाधा
5. **Peace** (verb) – Pacify, calm, tranquilize, soothe, mollify. शांत करना
6. **Aftermath** (noun) – Consequence, result, outcome, repercussion, दुष्परिणाम
7. **Address** (verb) – Confront, tackle, deal with, attend to, take on. सुलझाना, निपटाना,
8. **Grievance** (noun) – Complaint, protest, objection, grumble. शिकायत
9. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, give rise to. वजह बनना
10. **In the first place** (phrase) – at the beginning; to begin with. सब से पहले
11. **Redress** (noun) – Remedy, resolution, rectification, solution. समाधान, सुधार
12. **Wanton** (adjective) – intentional, calculated, conscious, done on purpose, knowing जान-बूझकर
13. **Targeted** (adjective) – Aimed, designed, intended, purposeful. लक्षित
14. **Blockade** (noun) – Barricade, barrier, obstruction, barricade. नाकाबंदी
15. **Displaced** (adjective) – Uprooted, relocated, removed, displaced. विस्थापित
16. **In order to** (phrase) – With the purpose of. ताकि
17. **Effect** (verb) – Bring about, cause, accomplish, achieve. लागू करना
18. **Eminent** (adjective) – Distinguished, renowned, illustrious, esteemed. प्रसिद्ध
19. **Tamp down** (phrasal verb) – Suppress, subdue, quell, restrain, reduce, lessen, decrease, diminish. दबाना
20. **Ember** (noun) – Remnant, residue, fragment, leftover; glowing coal, burning wood. अंगारा; चिनगारी
21. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, ensuing. के बाद
22. **Conflagration** (noun) – Fire, inferno, blaze, combustion. भयानक आग
23. **Must** (noun) – Requirement, necessity, need, requisite. ज़रूरत

24. **Paramilitary force** (noun) – It include, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, Assam rifles, BSF etc.
25. **Stem** (verb) – Stop, halt, check, curb. रोकना
26. **Sporadic** (adjective) – Occasional, infrequent, irregular, intermittent, scattered छिटपुट
27. **Ethnic** (adjective) – Racial, tribal, cultural, traditional, indigenous जातीय
28. **Arson** (noun) – Fire-raising, incendiarism, pyromania, ignition आगजनी
29. **Entail** (verb) – Involve, necessitate, require, demand, need आवश्यक बनाना
30. **Looted** (adjective) – Pillaged, ransacked, robbed, plundered लूटा हुआ
31. **Battered** (adjective) – damaged, spoiled, impaired/ruined. क्षतिग्रस्त
32. **Hit a snag** (phrase) – Encounter a problem, run into trouble, face an obstacle बाधा आना
33. **Standing** (noun) – Reputation, prestige, respect, esteem, stature प्रतिष्ठा
34. **Transcend** (verb) – Surpass, exceed, outshine, eclipse, outdo पार करना
35. **Identity** (noun) – Individuality, self, character, personality, existence पहचान
36. **Reveal** (verb) – Disclose, unveil, expose, divulge, tell उजागर करना
37. **Complicate** (verb) – Make difficult, complicate, exacerbate, worsen जटिल बनाना
38. **Worryingly** (adverb) – Alarming, disturbingly, disconcertingly, unsettlingly चिंताजनक रूप से
39. **Expressly** (adverb) – Explicitly, specifically, particularly, clearly स्पष्ट रूप से
40. **Rake up** (phrasal verb) – Bring up, revive, dredge up, rekindle पुरानी बातें उठाना
41. **Unwarranted** (adjective) – Unjustified, undue, uncalled for, unnecessary अनुचित
42. **Generalisation** (noun) – Broad statement, sweeping statement, overgeneralization सामान्यीकरण
43. **Give up on** (phrase) – Abandon, desert, discard, forsake त्याग देना
44. **Persuade** (verb) – Convince, influence, coax, sway मनाना
45. **Prominent** (adjective) – Notable, eminent, distinguished, leading प्रमुख
46. **The fact that** (phrase) – used to refer to a specific situation under consideration/discussion. तथ्य यह है कि

47. **Aegis** (noun) – Protection, backing, support, patronage संरक्षण

48. **Push the envelope on** (phrase) – To exceed or try to exceed the existing limits

49. **Ease** (verb) – soothe, relieve, alleviate, mitigate, assuage सुगम बनाना

50. **Run-up to** (noun) – a period of time just before an important event.

51. **Ineffectual** (adjective) – Unsuccessful, unproductive, fruitless, futile असफल

52. **Shown up** (phrasal verb) – Exposed, revealed, disclosed, unveiled प्रकट होना

53. **Govern** (verb) – Rule, control, command, lead शासन करना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The recent conflict in Manipur calls for a necessary return to normalcy as a basis to address the grievances of the affected parties.
2. Various groups engaging in violent behavior and using blockades to prevent the transport of supplies is counterproductive for peace efforts.
3. Peace talks between influential representatives from both civil society and political parties are critical to control any remaining violence post-conflict.
4. The deployment of paramilitary forces and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal for peace have helped contain violence, though sporadic incidents still occur.
5. The return of displaced people to their homes and the recovery of looted arms are crucial for establishing peaceful conditions, but progress in these areas is limited.
6. The Union government's establishment of a peace committee consisting of notable figures in Manipur has encountered resistance, with several figures refusing to join or claiming they were added without prior consultation.
7. The success of peace initiatives depends on fair representation from all conflicting groups and inclusion of representatives with strong public standing.
8. The refusal of some public figures to participate in the peace committee highlights the ethnicization of civil society in Manipur and creates hurdles in peace building.
9. Controversially, Kuki-Zo representatives have withdrawn from the committee due to the inclusion of the Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh.
10. A Meitei civil society group has controversially labeled the issue as related to "narco-terrorism" and withdrawn from the committee.
11. Despite these setbacks, the government should continue efforts to persuade key political and civil society representatives to participate in discussions.
12. The Union government's involvement reveals the failure of the Biren Singh administration to retain the confidence of all parties.
13. The current situation indicates that it may be time for the Union government and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to consider alternative leadership.
14. The Chief Minister's actions, both before and after the violence, have been either ineffective or indicative of ineffective governance.
15. Ensuring a return to normalcy, addressing grievances, and initiating peace talks is crucial for preventing future conflict and bringing stability to Manipur.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern based

1. **According to the passage, what are the necessary steps for achieving normalcy after a conflict?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. Using blockades to prevent the transport of supplies and keeping displaced people from their homes.
  - B. Continuing sporadic incidents of ethnic violence and arson.
  - C. Eminent representatives engaging in peace talks and tamping down any residual violence.
  - D. Permitting the conditions of sporadic violence and poor governance to persist.
2. **According to the passage, which of the following is NOT described as a crucial part of the process towards achieving normalcy after a conflict in Manipur?**
  - A. Ensuring that displaced people can return to their homes.
  - B. Conducting peace talks between important representatives.
  - C. Allowing continued ethnic violence to facilitate negotiations.
  - D. Recovering looted arms and maintaining law and order.
3. **The passage suggests that the formation of the peace committee by the Union government has faced challenges due to:**
  - A. The reluctance of prominent public figures to participate.
  - B. The absence of all groups in the conflict from the committee.
  - C. Both A and B.
  - D. The committee's inability to execute its mandate.
4. **What does the passage suggest as a potential solution to the failed peace initiatives in the State?**
  - A. To persuade the Kuki-Zo representatives to rejoin the committee.
  - B. To persuade the Meitei civil society group to rejoin the committee.
  - C. To introduce an alternative leadership that could facilitate the peace-building process.
  - D. To push for more representatives with public standing on the committee.
5. **According to the passage, why has the constitution of a peace committee by the Union government met with resistance?**
  - A. The peace committee members feel they were added without prior consultation.
  - B. The peace committee did not include representatives from all groups involved in the conflict.
  - C. Some members disagreed with the inclusion of the Manipur Chief Minister in the committee.
  - D. All of the above.
6. **What is the overall tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Neutral
  - C. Critical
  - D. Pessimistic
7. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The history of ethnic violence in Manipur

- B. The role of Union government in Manipur's peace process  
C. The economic consequences of the conflict in Manipur  
D. The importance of cultural diversity in Manipur
8. What word is the antonym of "**grievances**" in the context of the passage?  
A. Accolades  
B. Issues  
C. Complaints  
D. Problems
9. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**  
The first-year students are bidding farewell to their seniors.  
A. Farewell is to be bid to their seniors by the first-year students.  
B. Farewell was being bid to their seniors by the first-year students.  
C. Farewell is being bid to their seniors by the first-year students.  
D. Their seniors is being bid farewell by the first-year students.
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
The company's new strategy helped them \_\_\_\_\_ in a highly competitive market.  
A. flounder  
B. flourish  
C. flutter  
D. falter

### Comprehension

December 2021 and December 2022 could not have been more contrasting for India's pharmaceutical industry. Last year, it was hailed for developing vaccines that inoculated billions against the coronavirus and \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ its moniker as the 'pharmacy of the world'. This year, two Indian drug-manufacturing firms stand accused by two countries of producing toxic cough syrup linked to the deaths of children — at least 66 in The Gambia and 18 in Uzbekistan. While The Gambia case was highlighted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the second case has been flagged by the Uzbek Health Ministry. In both cases, it is not \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ established that consuming the syrup directly led to the deaths. \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ is of concern is that in both countries, batches were spiked with ethylene glycol or diethylene glycol, i.e., industrial chemicals that have no business being inside bottles of cough syrup. The Indian government adopted a \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ stance after the scandal in The Gambia. While the export licence of the Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd., which supplied the syrup to The Gambia, was revoked, Indian authorities, rather than investigating how the cough syrup was spiked, chose to question WHO's assessment that it was the cough syrup that caused the acute kidney injury linked to the deaths. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) brazened it \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ with WHO in a letter suggesting that its own tests of 'control samples' of the Maiden Pharma-product showed them to be free of contaminants.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- B. Underlined  
C. Compelled  
D. Diluted
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**  
A. Conclusively  
B. Comprehensively  
C. Adequately  
D. Merely
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**  
A. Which  
B. Where  
C. What  
D. However
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**  
A. Insignificant  
B. Pertinent  
C. Truculent  
D. Expedient
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**  
A. Of  
B. Out  
C. By  
D. In
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**  
P. The Centre had told the Lok Sabha in December last year that post-harvest losses were in the range of 4-6 per cent for cereals and 5-8 per cent for pulses.  
Q. The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 1 lakh crore plan aimed at creating 'the world's largest grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector'. The government intends to provide modern storage facilities to farmers in their respective blocks through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) so that they are able to get a fair price for their foodgrains.  
R. It's a cause for concern that the country's storage capacity is less than half of its foodgrain production. With the granaries overflowing, a portion of the produce is exposed to pest attacks and inclement weather.  
S. This is a criminal waste of grains in a country where millions go to sleep every night on an empty stomach. It is also a huge disincentive to farmers who toil hard to ensure the nation's food security.  
A. SPQR      B. QRPS      C. SQPR      D. PRQS
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**  
P. In this region, Chintpurni Medical College in Punjab's Pathankot district and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College in Haryana's Faridabad district are among the institutes affected till now; more could follow.



- Q. The Covid pandemic proved that our medical fraternity is second to none globally as India tackled the contagion and produced vaccines. However, poorly-rated medical colleges are a blot on this image.
- R. Undoubtedly, there can be no compromise on the standard set for these medical colleges as it has a bearing on the quality of doctors graduating out of their precincts.
- S. Clamping down on medical colleges that have not been meeting the statutory criteria to run MBBS courses, the NMC has derecognised 40 colleges and 100 others face a similar fate across the country, affecting new batches of students.
- A. SQPR      B.QPSR      C.RSPQ      D.SPRQ

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

- P. The Act had seen the light of day after disagreement between the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education) and the PM's office over retaining government control.
- Q. It was the writ of the PM's office that had prevailed, paving the way for the IIMs' autonomous functioning
- R. The Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Act, 2017, dubbed by PM Modi as a 'landmark experiment' in higher education, empowers the institutes to appoint directors, chairpersons and Board members, besides letting them award degrees, instead of diplomas, for their postgraduate programmes.
- S. The more things change, the more they remain the same. Three years after a law was enacted with the aim of granting academic autonomy to the 20 premier business schools of the country, the Central government is apparently trying to use the same legislation to regain a part of the ground it had once ceded reluctantly.
- A. SRPQ      B.QRSP      C.SRQP      D.SPRQ

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

- P. The claim by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) about top honey brands being adulterated with sugar syrup in the country needs scrutiny.
- Q. One aspect of the finding is related to health, with the CSE fearing that adulteration of honey intended to bypass purity tests can have massive implications for the bodily system amid the Covid-19 pandemic by increasing the sugar intake.
- R. But that as innocuous a product as honey, used as a food supplement, should fall prey to adulteration on an industrial scale is a cause for concern.
- S. Food adulteration is common, with local producers who use various cheap additives getting caught, especially during the festival season.
- A. PSQR      B.PSRQ      C.QSRP      D.PQSR

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

- P. The difficulty of getting work done in the corridors of power has always been acknowledged, stuck as it gets in red tape and procedural wrangles.
- Q. Terms like sifarish and pairavi have become part of common parlance and an acknowledgement of the problems that people have to face.

- R. The report by Transparency International that India has the highest bribery rate in Asia and the most number of people who use personal connections to access public services deserves attention even as it may not come as a surprise.
- S. The corruption watchdog also says that complicated bureaucratic processes and unclear regulatory frameworks force citizens to access basic services through networks of familiarity and petty corruption.

A. RSPQ

B.QSRP

C.PSQR

D.PRQS

## Answers

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

## Explanations

- 1. C) Eminent representatives engaging in peace talks and tamping down any residual violence.**  
The passage highlights that a return to normalcy following a conflict involves addressing the grievances that caused the conflict. It emphasizes that this cannot be achieved when there is wanton violence, blockades, or when displaced people cannot return home, which eliminates options A and D. Although sporadic violence is mentioned, it's indicated as something that needs to be stemmed rather than continued, eliminating option B. **Option C**, which suggests peace talks among eminent representatives and calming any remaining violence, aligns most closely with the steps suggested in the passage for achieving normalcy after a conflict.
- 2. C. Allowing continued ethnic violence to facilitate negotiations.**  
The passage details several steps necessary for restoring normalcy after a conflict. These include letting displaced people return to their homes (mentioned in "continue to prevent displaced people from getting back to their homes"), having peace talks with key representatives from civil society and political parties (mentioned in "peace talks between eminent representatives — from civil society and political parties"), and recovering looted arms to ensure a peaceful environment (mentioned in "setting the conditions of peace which would entail the return of looted arms"). However, the passage does not suggest that continued ethnic violence can facilitate negotiations. Instead, it clearly mentions the need to "stem the violence" and states that continued ethnic violence has been a problem ("ethnic violence and arson have continued a month after the conflagration"). Therefore, option C is not a part of the process described in the passage.
- 3. C) Both A and B.**  
According to the passage, many eminent public figures have either refused to join the committee or claim to have been added without prior consultation. This indicates a lack of willingness to participate. Additionally, the passage mentions that Kuki-Zo representatives and a Meitei civil society group have withdrawn from the committee, which suggests that not all groups involved in the conflict are being represented in the committee. Therefore, the answer is both A and B
- 4. C) To introduce an alternative leadership that could facilitate the peace-building process.**  
The passage criticizes the current administration led by the Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, for its failure in retaining the confidence of all parties and suggests that it may be time for the Union government and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to consider an alternative leadership that could ease the peace-building process. While the passage does mention the withdrawal of Kuki-Zo representatives and a Meitei civil society group, it does not explicitly suggest persuading them to rejoin as a solution. Similarly, while the importance of

representatives with public standing is acknowledged, adding more such representatives is not proposed as a solution. Therefore, the answer is C.

5. **D. All of the above.**

The passage suggests that multiple reasons have contributed to the resistance against the peace committee established by the Union government. Some members felt they were added to the committee without prior consultation, other members withdrew because the committee included the Manipur Chief Minister, and others have indicated their disappointment that the committee does not include representatives from all groups involved in the conflict

6. **C) Critical**

The passage largely criticizes the current handling of the conflict in Manipur and suggests several areas for improvement. It discusses the challenges of returning to normalcy, peace talks, and the problems with the peace committee. It ends with a critique of the current leadership. Hence, the overall tone of the passage is critical.

7. **B) The role of Union government in Manipur's peace process**

The passage discusses the aftermath of conflict in Manipur and the path to restoring normalcy. The central theme is the role that the Union government plays in this process, from the deployment of paramilitary forces to the constitution of a peace committee. There is critique of the government's handling of the situation, suggestions for improvement, and a call for the Union government and the ruling party to consider alternative leadership, making this the main theme of the passage.

8. **A) Accolades**

In the given passage, "**grievances**" refers to a feeling of resentment or complaint due to unfair treatment or dissatisfaction. The antonym of "grievances" in this context would be "**accolades**," which refers to any form of recognition or praise received.

9. **C. Farewell** is being bid to their seniors by the first-year students

10. **B) flourish** - फलना-फूलना

"**Flourish**" means to grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment. In this context, it indicates that the company has become successful due to its new strategy. The other options suggest negative outcomes, which are not appropriate for the sentence

11. **B) Underline** (verb) – emphasize, stress on, highlight, accentuate, accent, call attention to ज़ोर देना

- **Accuse** (verb) – to say that someone has done something wrong आरोप लगाना
- **Compel** (verb) – Force, coerce, make, oblige मजबूर करना
- **Dilute** (verb) – Weaken, reduce, lessen, कमजोर करना

12. **A) Conclusively** (adverb) – Decisively, finally, convincingly निर्णायक रूप से

'Conclusively' is the correct choice as it refers to something being proved beyond doubt. The sentence is saying that it is not definitively proven that the syrup led to the deaths.

- **Comprehensively** (adverb) – Thoroughly, completely, fully, extensively व्यापक रूप से
- **Adequately** (adverb) – Sufficiently, suitably, satisfactorily, appropriately पर्याप्त रूप से
- **Merely** (adverb) – Just, only, simply, purely, solely केवल

13. C) 'What' is used here to introduce the subject of concern. 'Which' would be used to specify one or more people or things from a definite set. 'Where' refers to a place or situation, and 'However' introduces a contrast or exception - none of which are the intended use in this context

14. **C) Truculent** (adjective) – Defiant, aggressive, belligerent, fractious कठोर/ आक्रामक

'Truculent' is the best choice as it refers to a defiant or aggressive stance, which fits the context in which the Indian authorities are disputing the WHO's assessment.

- **Insignificant** (adjective) – Unimportant, irrelevant, meaningless, negligible, trivial अप्रभावशाली
- **Pertinent** (adjective) – Relevant, appropriate, suitable, applicable, germane प्रासंगिक/ उचित
- **Expedient** (adjective) – Convenient, practical, advantageous, beneficial लाभकारी

15. **B) Brazen out** (phrasal verb) – to face a difficult situation confidently, without showing shame or embarrassment सामना करना

In this context, "brazened it out" is an idiom meaning to face a difficult situation boldly or shamelessly.

16. **B) QRPS**

**Q:** The paragraph starts with 'Q' as it introduces the primary subject of the paragraph: the government's initiative for creating world's largest grain storage capacity.

**R:** Next comes 'R', which elaborates the urgency and necessity of this initiative, highlighting the problem of insufficient storage capacity and the consequent overflow of granaries.

**P:** Then comes 'P', it provides a supporting fact to the preceding sentence, quantifying the post-harvest losses due to inadequate storage.

**S:** Finally, 'S' concludes the paragraph, emphasizing the social and economic implications of this problem – wasted grains and the impact on the farmers who strive for the nation's food security.

17. **D) SPRQ**

**S:** The paragraph starts with sentence 'S' which introduces the issue of the National Medical Commission (NMC) derecognizing medical colleges not meeting statutory criteria for MBBS courses.

**P:** 'P' then offers a localized perspective, highlighting specific colleges that have been affected by this measure.

**R:** 'R' provides a justification for this rigorous action, emphasizing that compromising standards would adversely impact the quality of graduating doctors.

**Q:** Finally, 'Q' provides a contrast, stating that while the Indian medical fraternity has performed commendably during the Covid pandemic, poorly-rated medical colleges mar this image.

18. A) **SRPQ**

**S:** The sentence S provides an overarching context to the entire paragraph by talking about the law enacted three years ago and its intended consequences. Therefore, it is the best choice to start the paragraph

**R:** The sentence R is a logical follow-up to S as it elaborates on the law mentioned in the first sentence, describing its function and attribution.

**P:** The sentence P follows suit as it provides a historical context to the enactment of the law, explaining the disagreement that led to its formation.

**Q:** Lastly, the sentence Q concludes the narrative by stating the final outcome of the disagreement mentioned in P, making it the best choice to end the paragraph.

19. B) **PSRQ**

**P:** In this sequence, the paragraph begins with sentence P which introduces the main issue, the CSE's claim of honey being adulterated with sugar syrup.

**S:** Sentence S follows next as it gives a general background about food adulteration, creating a context for the specific issue of honey adulteration discussed.

**R:** Sentence R expands on this issue, highlighting the seriousness of honey, an otherwise harmless product, being adulterated on a large scale.

**Q:** Finally, sentence Q concludes the paragraph by discussing the potential health implications of such adulteration amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

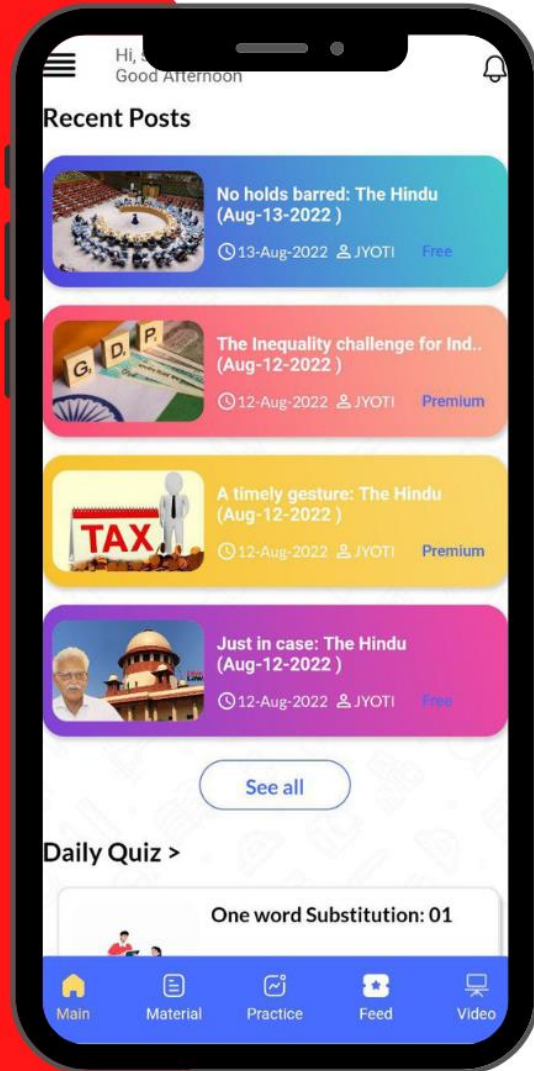
20. A) **RSPQ**

**R:** Sentence R introduces the topic of the paragraph, reporting on India's bribery rate and the use of personal connections to access public services

**S:** Sentence S then provides more information on the topic mentioned in Sentence R, explaining why people might use personal connections - because of complicated bureaucratic processes and unclear regulatory frameworks.

**P:** Sentence P then elaborates on these problems, discussing how work gets stuck in red tape and procedural wrangles in the corridors of power.

**Q:** Finally, Sentence Q concludes the paragraph by mentioning how these problems have become part of common parlance, solidifying the narrative about the problems introduced in Sentence R and elaborated upon in Sentences S and P.



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