

Express View on stockholding limits on wheat: Cap doesn't fit

Amid estimates of record crop, this sends **mixed signals**, raises questions

The Narendra Modi government has **imposed** stockholding limits on wheat, bringing back a restriction last **clamped** in August 2006 and **withdrawn** in March 2009. But there's a difference: **The 2006 order**, capping the quantity of wheat any trader or processor could keep, **was** in response to a **fall** in domestic production and **depleted inventories** in public **warehouses** amid **spiraling** international prices. This time around, the Agriculture Ministry has estimated a record 2022-23 crop of 112.7 million tonnes (mt). Also, government agencies have **procured** 26.2 mt of grain in the current marketing season. Although below the all-time-high of 43.3 mt in 2021, it's more than the 18.8 mt bought last year. And at \$230-250 per tonne, **export prices** of Russian and European Union wheat **are** down from the \$420-430 levels of a year ago.

It raises **obvious** questions on the **rationale** for the move. Is the government worried about the southwest monsoon, which has **so far registered** 52 per cent below-normal rainfall? While the monsoon season extends from June to September, the **prospects** of rain — and, **by extension**, for the **kharif crops planted** during this time — **have seemingly** been **clouded** by El Niño already declared by leading global **forecasters**. The combined stocks of wheat and rice are comfortable **for now**, but the fear is **probably** of a subnormal monsoon that may **result in** a not-so-good 2023-24 paddy crop. But isn't that **sounding the alarm bell** too soon? Over the last one year, the Modi government has banned exports of wheat, broken rice and sugar, besides **levying** a 20 per cent **duty** on **non-parboiled** non-basmati **shipments**. The stock limits on wheat were **preceded** by similar restrictions on tur (pigeon-pea) and urad (black gram) holdings by wholesalers, small and big retailers, and dal **millers**. These are not ordinary **precautionary** or **preemptive** actions. Rather, they **convey** a single-minded focus not to **take any chances** with food inflation ahead of national elections in April-May 2024.

This approach is also disturbing from another **standpoint**: It shows the Modi government's lack of **conviction** in its own farm reform laws that were **touted** as a 1991 moment for Indian agriculture. How can farmer unions and the Opposition be blamed for their **repeal** when the government itself has **violated** their provisions and **resurrected** the **ghost** of the **Essential** Commodities Act? Equally **concerning** is the **credibility** of official production **statistics**. If Indian farmers have **harvested** a record wheat crop, why impose stock limits that, if anything, are **symptomatic** of shortages? Last year, too, the government **claimed** a bumper production and yet banned exports. Conviction and credibility are **central** to policy-making. Both are unfortunately **all-too-often** missing when it comes to agriculture.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Stockholding** (noun) – an amount of goods that a company keeps for use in the future
2. **Cap** (noun) – Limit, restriction, threshold, restraint, ceiling सीमा
3. **Amid** (preposition) – Among, amongst, surrounded by, in the middle of, between के बीच
4. **Estimate** (noun) – Assessment, appraisal, evaluation, guess, approximation अनुमान
5. **Mixed signal** (noun) – Ambiguity, paradox, confusion, contradiction, double message अस्पष्ट संकेत
6. **Impose** (verb) – Inflict, force, foist, levy, enforce थोपना
7. **Clamp** (verb) – Fasten, secure, fix, bind, tighten शिकंजा कसना
8. **Withdraw** (verb) – Remove, extract, retract, recall, pull out वापस लेना
9. **Fall** (noun) – Decline, decrease, drop, downturn, reduction गिरावट
10. **Depleted** (adjective) – Exhausted, emptied, drained, consumed, spent समाप्त
11. **Inventory** (noun) – Stock, store, reserve, supply, stockpile भंडार
12. **Warehouse** (noun) – Storage place, storehouse, depot, repository, stockroom गोदाम
13. **Spiralling** (adjective) – Escalating, rising rapidly, soaring, skyrocketing तेजी से बढ़ रहा है
14. **Procure** (verb) – Obtain, acquire, get, secure, gain प्राप्त करना
15. **Obvious** (adjective) – Clear, apparent, evident, plain, palpable स्पष्ट
16. **Rationale** (noun) – Reasoning, logic, sense, principle, reason तर्क
17. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to this point, to date, up to the present अब तक
18. **Register** (verb) – Record, note, log, document, post दर्ज करना
19. **Prospect** (noun) – Possibility, likelihood, potential, chance संभावना
20. **By extension** (phrase) – Consequently, therefore, hence, thus, subsequently विस्तार से
21. **Kharif crop** (noun) – Kharif crops are those that are sown in the monsoon season and are also known as monsoon crops
22. **Plant** (verb) – Sow, seed, scatter, broadcast, spread बोना

23. **Seemingly** (adverb) – Apparently, evidently, presumably, superficially प्रतीत होता है
24. **Cloud** (verb) – Obscure, blur, overshadow, eclipse, obfuscate धुंधला करना
25. **El Nino** (noun) – A climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean that has a global impact on weather patterns.
26. **Forecaster** (noun) – Predictor, prognosticator, seer, prophet, soothsayer भविष्यवाणी करने वाला
27. **For now** (phrase) – At present, currently, for the moment, momentarily, for the time being फिलहाल के लिए
28. **Probably** (adverb) – Likely, presumably, possibly, feasibly, perhaps शायद
29. **Result in** (phrase) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, generate परिणामस्वरूप
30. **Sound the alarm bell** (phrase) – Warn, alert, caution, raise the alarm, signal danger चेतावनी देना
31. **Levy** (verb) – Impose, charge, exact, assess, demand लगाना
32. **Duty** (noun) – Tax, levy, Cess, कर
33. **Non-parboiled** (adjective) – Not partially cooked or boiled. बिना उबला हुआ
34. **Shipment** (noun) – Export, Cargo, freight, consignment, delivery भेजा गया माल
35. **Precede** (verb) – come before (something) in time पूर्व में होना
36. **Miller** (noun) – A person who owns or operates a mill, especially a grain mill. चक्की चलाने वाला
37. **Precautionary** (adjective) – Protective, preventive, safety, defensive एहतिहाती
38. **Preemptive** (adjective) – Proactive, deterrent, anticipatory, preclusive पूर्वग्रही
39. **Convey** (verb) – Communicate, express, make known, reveal बताना
40. **Take any chances** (phrase) – To do something that has an uncertain outcome, to risk. जोखिम उठाना
41. **Standpoint** (noun) – Perspective, viewpoint, position, outlook दृष्टिकोण
42. **Conviction** (noun) – Certainty, confidence, assurance, belief विश्वास
43. **Tout** (verb) – Promote, advertise, publicize, talk up प्रचार करना
44. **Repeal** (noun) – Revocation, cancellation, retraction, rescinding खण्डन, निरसन

45. **Violate** (verb) – Breach, break, infract, disobey उल्लंघन करना
46. **Resurrect** (verb) – Revive, restore, renew, regenerate पुनर्जीवित करना
47. **Ghost** (noun) – a suggestion of some quality
48. **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, vital, crucial, important आवश्यक
49. **Concern** (verb) – Worry, distress, trouble, bother चिंता करना
50. **Credibility** (noun) – Trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, integrity विश्वसनीयता
51. **Statistic** (noun) – Data, figure, information, number, detail आँकड़ा
52. **Harvest** (verb) – Gather, reap, collect, pick, accumulate काटना
53. **Symptomatic** (adjective) – Indicative, suggestive, representative, symbolic, emblematic संकेतात्मक
54. **Claim** (verb) – Assert, declare, state, aver, affirm दावा करना
55. **Central** (adjective) – Significant, main, key, pivotal, most important, महत्वपूर्ण
56. **All-too-often** (adverb) – Frequently, recurrently, regularly, usually, customarily अक्सर

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Narendra Modi government in India has reintroduced stockholding limits on wheat, a restriction previously imposed in 2006 and withdrawn in 2009.
2. The earlier imposition was due to decreased domestic production, low inventory in public warehouses, and rising international prices.
3. This time, however, the Agriculture Ministry estimates a record crop of 112.7 million tonnes for the year 2022-23.
4. Government agencies have procured 26.2 million tonnes in the current season, though this is less than the all-time high of 43.3 million tonnes in 2021.
5. Export prices of Russian and EU wheat are down from the previous year, raising questions about the necessity of the imposed limits.
6. There is a concern about the below-normal rainfall recorded by the southwest monsoon, possibly indicating poor prospects for the kharif crops.
7. The move to impose limits may be a preemptive measure against a potential poor paddy crop in 2023-24 due to subnormal monsoon.
8. Over the past year, the Modi government has also banned exports of wheat, broken rice, and sugar, in addition to imposing a 20% duty on certain rice shipments.
9. The wheat limits follow similar restrictions on pigeon-pea and black gram holdings, indicating a focus on preventing food inflation ahead of the 2024 national elections.
10. The return to these policies suggests a lack of faith in the Modi government's own farm reform laws, despite them being touted as a major step forward for Indian agriculture.
11. The government's own violation of its farm reform laws and revival of the Essential Commodities Act raises questions about its commitment to these reforms.
12. Doubts arise about the credibility of official production statistics, given the incongruity between reported record wheat production and the imposed stock limits.
13. The seeming contradiction between claims of bumper production and restrictions on exports and stock limits implies a lack of conviction and credibility in the government's policy-making.
14. The narrative questions whether preemptive actions like the imposition of stock limits and export bans are valid measures, or merely reflect an overly cautious approach driven by election concerns.
15. The editorial concludes by suggesting that such moves undermine the credibility of the government's agricultural reforms and may affect the overall perception of the government's handling of agricultural policy.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern based

1. **What is the main reason provided in the passage for the imposition of stockholding limits on wheat by the Narendra Modi government in 2023?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The government is taking a preemptive action in light of a predicted El Niño event that could impact the monsoon season and hence the 2023-24 paddy crop.
 - B. The quantity of wheat that any trader or processor could keep has been capped due to falling domestic production and depleted inventories in public warehouses.
 - C. The government has estimated a record 2022-23 crop of 112.7 million tonnes (mt), and this could lead to an oversupply in the market.
 - D. Government agencies have procured less grain in the current marketing season compared to the previous all-time-high.
2. **Based on the provided paragraph, which of the following is a valid inference?**
 - A. The government is considering stockholding limits on wheat due to the record crop estimated for 2022-23, which might result in overstocking and subsequent financial loss given the decreasing wheat export prices in the global market.
 - B. The concerns about the southwest monsoon are solely linked to the potential harm it could cause to the wheat crop for the next season, thereby affecting the estimates for the 2023-24 crop.
 - C. The government's consideration of wheat stockholding limits might be influenced by a combination of factors: a record crop estimated for 2022-23, substantial procurement in the current marketing season, a substantial drop in global wheat prices, and potential concerns about the southwest monsoon impacting the next kharif crops.
 - D. El Niño, declared by leading global forecasters, is the sole reason behind the government's decision to impose stockholding limits on wheat.
3. **Which of the following can be inferred from the given paragraph?**
 - A. The government has imposed stock limits on wheat to ensure a steady supply and avoid inflation ahead of the national elections in 2024, despite this action suggesting a lack of faith in their own farm reform laws and potentially undermining the credibility of official production statistics.
 - B. The imposition of stock limits on wheat by the government is a routine measure taken to ensure the stability of the agricultural sector, irrespective of political or economic contexts, thus demonstrating its commitment to the recently enacted farm reform laws.
 - C. The stock limits on wheat were enacted to control a possible food shortage, following similar restrictions on other pulses. However, this move doesn't necessarily indicate a lack of confidence in the government's farm reform laws.
 - D. The government has imposed stock limits on wheat and other crops as a precautionary measure due to the anticipated bumper harvest, aligning well with their farm reform laws, and reflecting their commitment to maintain a balance between production and demand.

4. **What does the imposition of stock limits on wheat and other commodities imply about the Indian government's stance on its own farm reform laws?**
- A. The government strongly believes in the effectiveness of its farm reform laws.
 - B. The government lacks conviction in its own farm reform laws.
 - C. The government is seeking to expand its farm reform laws.
 - D. The government is indifferent about its farm reform laws
5. **Which of the following statements does NOT accurately reflect the content of the passage?**
- A. The government has placed stock limits on wheat as well as other commodities like pigeon-pea and black gram.
 - B. The government's actions indicate a concern about food inflation ahead of national elections.
 - C. The Modi government fully believes in and stands by its own farm reform laws.
 - D. There are doubts about the credibility of official production statistics.
6. **Based on the tone of the passage, which of the following best describes the author's attitude towards the Modi government's policies on wheat stockholding?**
- A. Enthusiastic
 - B. Uncertain
 - C. Critical
 - D. Indifferent
7. What is a synonym for "**resurrected**" as used in the given passage?
- A. Terminated
 - B. Suppressed
 - C. Revived
 - D. Buried
8. What is an antonym for "**spiral**" as used in the passage?
- A. Increase
 - B. Ascend
 - C. Plunge
 - D. Rise

Comprehension

Following the Supreme Court's judgment on the matter of adjusted gross revenues of telecom operators, the government had in late 2021 announced a relief package for the _____1_____ telecom sector. The terms of the package allowed for the conversion of the interest on telecom firms' _____2_____ AGR and spectrum dues into government equity in telecom operators. Vodafone Idea had taken this option in early 2022. Now, about a year later, the Union government has approved the plan to convert interest dues of more than Rs 16,000 crore into equity. Following this transaction, the promoters' holding will fall from 74.99 per cent to around 50 per cent. The government will now hold around 33 per cent in the company, making it the single largest shareholder in Vi. By itself, this move will not translate into a complete _____3_____ in the fortunes of the telco. Vi has been steadily

losing subscribers. As per data from TRAI, from June to September 2022 alone, the telco has lost around 7.5 million subscribers. And not only is its average revenue per user much lower than that of both Jio or Airtel, Vi _____4_____ has a lower share of high-paying 4G subscribers and has fallen behind in capital investments. The company has a _____5_____ debt burden.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**

- A. Beleaguered
- B. Marked
- C. Flawed
- D. Polarised

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**

- A. Alleged
- B. Deferred
- C. Concluded
- D. Concerned

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. Turnaround
- B. Hazard
- C. Bond
- D. Livelihood

12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. However
- B. Though
- C. Yet
- D. Also

13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**

- A. Accessible
- B. Indelible
- C. Affordable
- D. Sizeable

14. **Select the sentence that contains no spelling errors.**

- A. The pengiun gracefully glided across the ice.
- B. She was a firm beliver in the power of positive thinking.
- C. His favorite dessert was a delectable slice of choclote cake.
- D. The park was filled with children enjoying the sunny weather.

15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.**

Michael's _____ (tenacity) was admirable, as he continued to pursue his goals despite numerous setbacks.

- A. perseverance

- B. idleness
- C. skepticism
- D. frivolity

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

- P. It is an irony that in Punjab, the Scheduled Caste post-matric scholarship scheme — that is meant to financially enable poor students to pursue higher education and go on to uplift their lives with jobs congruent with their education — has become a hurdle in their way to progress.
 - Q. The multi-crore embezzlement of the scholarship funds has plunged thousands of students over the past three years into an unfairly dark zone as their degrees and detailed marksheets have been withheld, putting their future at stake.
 - R. Behind the rut that they are stuck in is the unjust stand that their colleges/universities have adopted by tying the release of their degrees with the release of the scholarship money.
 - S. The government's delay in releasing the funds has also cost the Dalit students admissions under the scheme: compared to 3.25 lakh admissions in 2016-17, the number came down to around 90,000 this session.
- A. SPQR B.QRPS C.PRQS D.PQRS

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

- P. The US has met India's security needs to a large extent, but there has been no economic concession of any kind, including restoring duty-free access to Rs 40,000 crore of Indian exports.
 - Q. The ever-looming shadow of Pakistan over Indo-US ties had finally been overtaken by the realisation in Washington that Islamabad is important only in the context of Afghanistan but India's external canvas is exponentially wider.
 - R. When Donald Trump visited India in February last year, bilateral ties were elevated to a 'comprehensive global strategic partnership'.
 - S. It mainly meant that defence imports from the US were galloping and that White House acknowledged India as the most useful regional power.
- A. RSQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ

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

- P. It calls for the revving up of production and supply by the due date, considering the bump caused by the pandemic-induced lockdown.
- Q. In continuation of the series of significant regulations introduced over the past couple of years to improve safety features in vehicles, the Union Transport Ministry has in another welcome move proposed to make dual airbags mandatory by mid-2021.
- R. Earlier, in July 2019, it had made airbags for the driver of a four-wheeler compulsory. With the new draft provision, the seat belt-strapped front-seat passenger in a car is expected to become safer against possible injuries and death as the bag cushions the impact of a crash.

- S. For a smooth drive into this global standard, efforts are needed to iron out such obstacles as a fair distribution of the airbag cost between the consumer and the manufacturer, an impediment that is likely to be flagged by the stakeholders.

A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SRPQ

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

- P. The report observes that though FDI inflows to the region decreased by 2 per cent (from \$67 billion in 2018 to \$66 billion in 2019), India's share (\$51 billion) went up by 20 per cent in the corresponding period.
- Q. The green shoots have been endorsed by a UN report, which has forecast that the country's economy could prove to be the 'most resilient' in South and South-West Asia over the long term.
- R. The Reserve Bank of India is hopeful that growth will enter the positive zone in the ongoing quarter itself.
- S. Ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown, Indian economy has made slow but steady recovery in recent months, particularly during the festival season, on the strength of higher consumption spurred by the release of pent-up demand.

A. QRSP B.SRQP C.QSRP D.SRPQ

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

- P. Earlier, the misuse of the Roshni Act (repealed in 2018), that led to illegal occupation of land, had created a flutter.
- Q. The Jammu and Kashmir High Court's observation that government properties were being illegally occupied by political persons even when they were no longer holding any office is a pointer to a malaise that runs deep not only in the new Union Territory, but indeed through the length and breadth of the country.
- R. With those in possession of the properties defaulting on payment, it only adds to the burden on the state exchequer unless methods are found to recover the money from them.
- S. With arrears pending by way of unpaid rent, along with electricity and water charges, what is of note is that the allotments in the erstwhile state were made even to lawyers and other persons not entitled to the privilege.

A. QSPR B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) The passage indicates that the reason for the imposition of stockholding limits on wheat in 2023 is the predicted El Niño event which could adversely impact the monsoon season and hence the paddy crop of 2023-24 (Option A). The other options provided are either based on past reasons for the imposition of stockholding limits or are contradictory to the facts presented in the passage.
2. C) Option A is not entirely correct as it ignores the concern over the monsoon and its potential impact on future crops. Option B is also incorrect as the paragraph discusses other factors like record crop estimate, substantial procurement, and drop in global prices, not just the monsoon. Option D is inaccurate because the paragraph suggests that El Niño is only one of the several factors influencing the decision. Option C is the most accurate inference as it takes into account all the elements discussed in the paragraph - record crop estimate, significant procurement, decrease in global prices, and monsoon worries - that might be influencing the government's consideration of wheat stockholding limits.
3. Option A is correct as it is in line with the paragraph. It is inferred that the government has imposed stock limits to avoid inflation before the national elections in 2024. This move also seems to suggest a lack of faith in their own farm reform laws. Moreover, it questions the credibility of official production statistics. Other options are incorrect as they either overlook the upcoming national elections context (B and C) or inaccurately describe the motive behind the imposition of stock limits (B, C, and D).
4. **B. The government lacks conviction in its own farm reform laws.**
The passage states that the imposition of stock limits on wheat, tur (pigeon-pea), and urad (black gram) by the Modi government demonstrates a lack of conviction in its own farm reform laws. This is because such actions contradict the premises of the reform laws and resurrect the practices of the Essential Commodities Act, which the farm reform laws were meant to supersede. Therefore, the correct answer is Option B.
5. **C) The Modi government fully believes in and stands by its own farm reform laws.**
The passage discusses that the Modi government has implemented stock limits on wheat and other commodities, hinting at a focus on curbing food inflation ahead of national elections. The text also suggests doubts over the credibility of official production statistics. However, it indicates that the government lacks conviction in its own farm reform laws, contradicting option C. Therefore, option C does not accurately reflect the content of the passage.
6. **C) Critical**
The tone of the passage is clearly critical. The author questions the government's decisions, suggesting that they are alarmist, lack conviction, and potentially undermine agricultural reform efforts. This critique is evident in phrases such as "raises obvious

questions on the rationale", "isn't that sounding the alarm bell too soon?", "disturbing from another standpoint", "lack of conviction", and "credibility are central to policy-making. Both are unfortunately all-too-often missing when it comes to agriculture".

7. C) **Revived**

Resurrect (verb) – revive, resuscitate, raise, revitalize, restore

In the context of the passage, "**resurrected**" refers to the act of bringing back a restriction or policy that had been previously discontinued. पुनर्स्थापित करना

8. C) **Plunge**

Spiral (verb) – Escalate, increase, rise, mushroom, climb, rocket, get worse बढ़ना

In this context, "**spiral**" is used to denote a rapid increase. Thus, the antonym would be "plunge", which means a steep, fast, or drastic decrease.

9. A) **Beleaguered** (adjective) – in a very difficult situation; Stressed, long-suffering संकटग्रस्त

The term "**beleaguered**" (option A) suggests that the telecom sector is under pressure or trouble. It aligns with the context of the sentence and the paragraph, which indicates the telecom sector is facing difficulties, hence requiring a relief package.

- **Marked** (adjective) – Noteworthy, Pronounced, Significant, Conspicuous, Evident स्पष्ट
- **Flawed** (adjective) – Faulty, defective, damaged, blemished, imperfect त्रुटिपूर्ण
- **Polarised** (adjective) – Divided, split, dichotomized, bifurcated विभाजित

10. B) **Deferred** (adjective) – postponed, delayed स्थगित

"**Deferred**" (option B) is the correct choice here as it refers to something that has been delayed or postponed. In this context, the telecom firms have not yet paid their AGR and spectrum dues, implying they have deferred them.

- **Alleged** (adjective) – Supposed, so-called, claimed, professed, purported कथित
- **Concluded** (adjective) – Finished, Completed, Ended, Finalized, Accomplished समाप्त
- **Concerned** (adjective) – Involved, related, affected, related to संबंधित

11. A) **Turnaround** (noun) – a positive change; improvement बदलाव

The word "**turnaround**" (option A) refers to a complete change in circumstances or situation. Here, it indicates a reversal of fortunes for the telecom company.

- **Hazard** (noun) – Risk, danger, peril, threat खतरा
- **Bond** (noun) – Affinity, association, alliance, attachment, liaison सम्बंध
- **Livelihood** (noun) – Sustenance, living, means of support, income, subsistence, जीविका

12. D) The correct answer will be D. "**Also**" is used to add more information about a subject or situation. Here, the sentence is providing additional information about Vi's business challenges.

13. **D) Sizeable** (adjective) – Fairly large in size बड़ा/ काफी

- **Accessible** (adjective) – Available, reachable, obtainable, accessible पहुंच योग्य
- **Affordable** (adjective) – Reasonable, inexpensive, cheap, reasonably priced सस्ती
- **Indelible** (adjective) – Ineradicable, permanent, lasting, enduring, unerasable, अमिट, जो मिट न सके

14. **D. The park was filled with children enjoying the sunny weather.**

Explanation: Option A contains a misspelling of "penguin." Option B misspells "believer." Option C misspells "chocolate." Option D, however, is correctly spelled and contains no errors.

15. A. **perseverance** - निरन्तर प्रयत्न

Explanation: The word 'tenacity' means persistence or determination to continue doing something despite facing difficulties or challenges. Out of the given options, 'perseverance' is the most appropriate synonym, as it also means the quality of persisting in an action or effort. The other options do not convey the same meaning; 'idleness' refers to being inactive or lazy, 'skepticism' means doubting or questioning, and 'frivolity' means lacking seriousness or being carefree.

16. D) **PQRS**

P: This sets the stage for the context, explaining what the scholarship scheme is and how it has ironically become a hurdle instead of a support.

Q: Next, this sentence delves deeper into the issue, explaining how embezzlement of scholarship funds has negatively affected thousands of students.

R: This sentence then points out the specific issue of the colleges/universities withholding degrees due to the holdup of the scholarship funds, thus amplifying the negative impact mentioned in the previous sentence.

S: Lastly, this sentence shows the declining trend in admissions due to the government's delay in releasing the funds, thus concluding the narrative with a broader impact.

17. A) **RSQP**

R: This sentence sets the historical context for the discussion about India-US ties and it introduces the subject of their partnership.

S: This sentence further explains what the 'comprehensive global strategic partnership' mentioned in R entailed. So it is a direct continuation of sentence R.

Q: After establishing the nature of the partnership in sentence S, sentence Q moves on to discuss how perceptions shifted in Washington. The shift in perceptions involves India's

regional role compared to Pakistan's, which is also related to the partnership being discussed.

P: This last sentence, P, concludes by discussing the current state of the partnership. While security needs are being met, economic concessions are not, thus providing a summary statement of the status of the partnership

18. B) **QRSP**

Q: This paragraph sets the context for the argument by introducing the new regulation proposed by the Union Transport Ministry about making dual airbags mandatory in vehicles.

R: This paragraph adds to the context by discussing a previous regulation that made airbags for the driver mandatory and further explaining the purpose and expected benefits of the new regulation.

S: This paragraph introduces the challenges or potential obstacles to implementing the new regulation, such as the distribution of the airbag cost between consumers and manufacturers

P: This last paragraph suggests a solution to the potential obstacle introduced in the previous paragraph: increasing production and supply by the due date, despite potential difficulties caused by the pandemic

19. B) **SRQP**

S: This statement serves as the introduction. It talks about the recovery of the Indian economy after the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

R: This statement follows logically from S. The Reserve Bank of India's hope for positive growth is in response to the recovery mentioned in paragraph S.

Q: This paragraph builds on the positive outlook started in paragraph R by introducing a UN report that further supports the positive narrative about the Indian economy's resilience.

P: Finally, P provides specific data to support the optimism expressed in Q, making it the appropriate conclusion to the passage. The increase in India's share of FDI inflows, despite a regional decrease, further supports the UN's forecast of India's resilience.

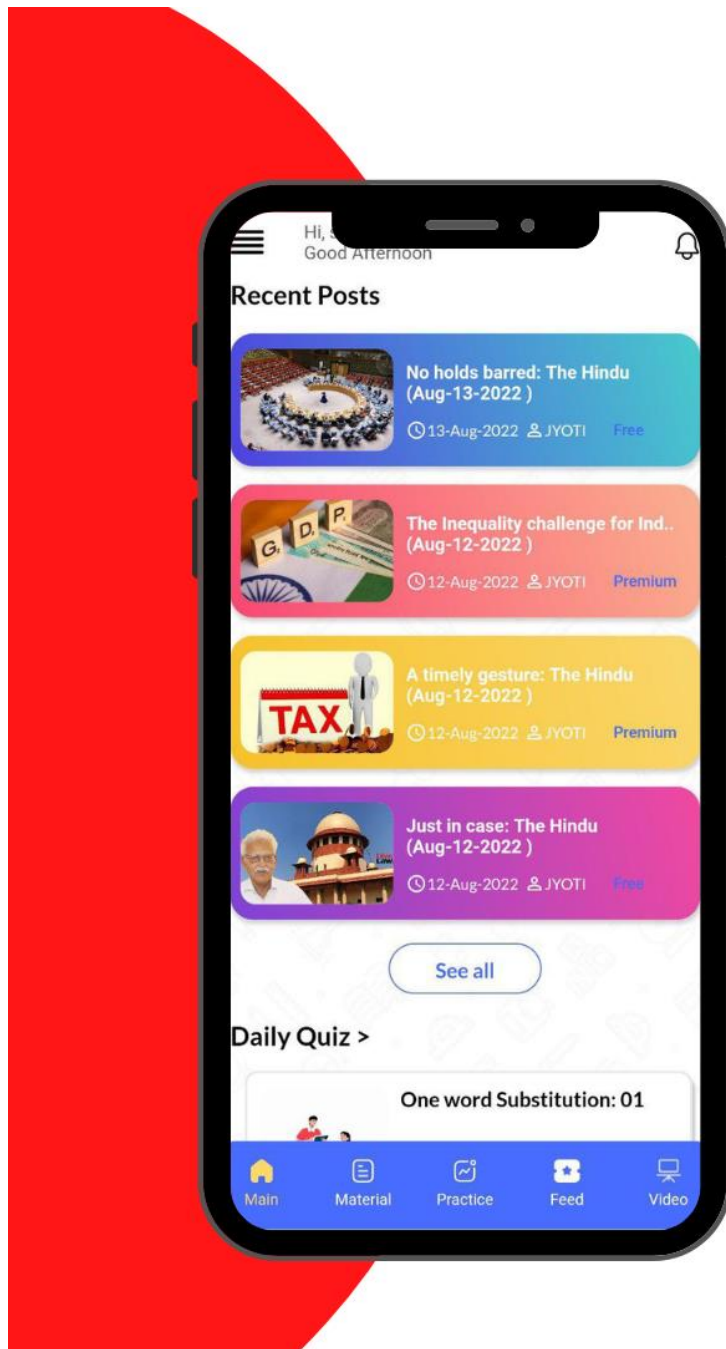
20. A) **QSPR**

Q: Q introduces the main issue: illegal occupation of government properties

S: S expands on the issue, revealing that there are unpaid arrears and improper allotments.

P: P provides historical context, referring to a past act which had similar consequences

R: R concludes by emphasizing the impact on the state exchequer, rounding off the paragraph by stating the economic consequence of the issue



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