

Safety first: on Indian pharma products and drug safety

India's **regulators** must **ensure** quality and safety of drugs

Reports of drugs manufactured in India causing severe harm and **dozens** of patient deaths from across the world **continue** to **trickle in**, the latest being the deaths of two patients in Sri Lanka who were **administered** Indian-made **anaesthetic drugs**. Just last month, eye drops manufactured in India had caused eye infection in about 30 patients and blindness in 10 in Sri Lanka. While anaesthetic **drugs** made in India causing deaths **are** a first in the recent past, eye drops causing infections, blindness and even deaths were reported a few months ago in the United States, with the Atlanta-based **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) finding a highly **drug-resistant** bacteria in them. The **series** of **adverse** reports against drugs produced in India **began** last year when the World Health Organization (WHO) linked the deaths of at least 70 children in Gambia from **acute** kidney injury, to cough syrups. The **culprit** ingredient in the syrups was diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol — deadly chemicals used as a cheaper **substitute** for propylene glycol — that should never have been found in any medicine. Soon after the deaths in Gambia, cough syrups made in India and containing the two deadly chemicals killed 18 children in Uzbekistan in December 2022. In end-April this year, Indian-made cough syrup was again in the news when WHO **flagged** the **contaminated** drugs found in the Marshall Islands and Micronesia; the **contamination** was identified by the Australian regulator. Diethylene glycol-contaminated drugs have **led to** at least five incidents of poisoning in Chennai, Mumbai, Bihar, Gurugram and Jammu between 1972 and 2020.

The **conduct** of the Indian drug regulator ever since WHO first raised a **red flag** in October last year **has** been on **predictable lines**. Even after serious **violations**, it gave a **clean chit** to the company that had supplied the drugs to Gambia and then **went on the offensive** to **fault** the global health body. While WHO **held its ground**, the drug regulator's **stand** was **exposed** — **test results** from Switzerland and Ghana **confirmed** the presence of **toxic** chemicals in the cough syrup sample from Gambia. Also, a detailed causality **assessment** by Gambia and independent investigations by the Gambian Parliamentary Committee and CDC Atlanta **found** a link between the deaths and the toxic chemicals. Except for some **customary** inspections, the Indian drug regulator has **so far** failed to **institute** measures to **make sure** drugs produced in India for export and domestic use are safe. India can continue to be the pharmacy of the **global south** only if the regulator begins to behave like a **watchdog** to ensure drug safety, and not as a **facilitator** for the pharma industry. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Regulator** (noun) – Watchdog, controller, manager, supervisor, supervisory body
नियामक
2. **Ensure** (verb) – Guarantee, ascertain, confirm, verify, affirm सुनिश्चित करना
3. **Trickle in** (phrasal verb) – to arrive or move somewhere slowly and gradually, in small numbers; Arrive slowly, come gradually, seep in, filter in, drip in धीरे-धीरे आना
4. **Administer** (verb) – Dispense, apply, deliver, give, distribute प्रदान करना
5. **Anaesthetic drug** (noun) – any drug that produces a local or general loss of sensation, including pain.
6. **Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** (noun) – A U.S. federal government agency whose mission is to protect public health by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability
7. **Drug-resistant bacteria** (noun) – it means the bacteria can grow even if the drug is present
8. **Adverse** (adjective) – Negative, unfavorable, harmful, detrimental, damaging प्रतिकूल
9. **Acute** (adjective) – Intense, severe, extreme, sharp, critical तीव्र
10. **Culprit** (noun) – the cause of a problem or defect.
11. **Substitute** (noun) – Alternative, replacement, surrogate, equivalent, stand-in विकल्प
12. **Flag** (verb) – Signal, indicate, point out, highlight, draw attention to संकेत करना
13. **Contaminated** (adjective) – Polluted, tainted, infected, adulterated, fouled दूषित
14. **Contamination** (noun) – Pollution, adulteration, defilement; the action or state of making or being made impure by polluting or poisoning. दूषण
15. **Lead (to)** (verb) – Result in, cause, produce, bring about, give rise to वजह बनना
16. **Red flag** (phrase) – Warning, alert, signal, caution, danger sign चेतावनी संकेत
17. **Predictable** (adjective) – Expected, foreseeable, anticipated, foreseeable, probable अनुमानित
18. **Line** (noun) – Course, approach, direction, tactic, strategy मार्ग, पथ
19. **Violation** (noun) – Breach, infraction, infringement, contravention, transgression उल्लंघन
20. **Clean chit** (phrase) – Absolution, exoneration, acquittal, clearance, vindication स्वतंत्र करना, छोड़ देना

21. **Go on the offensive** (phrase) – take the initiative by beginning to attack or act aggressively. आक्रामक हो जाना
22. **Fault** (verb) – Criticize, censure, blame, condemn, accuse दोष देना/ गलती निकालना
23. **Hold one's ground** (phrase) – Stand firm, stand one's ground, remain resolute, hold on अपनी स्थिती पर जमे रहना
24. **Stand** (noun) – Position, viewpoint, standpoint, perspective, attitude दृष्टिकोण
25. **Expose** (verb) – Uncover, reveal, disclose, bring to light, unmask प्रकट करना
26. **Toxic** (adjective) – Poisonous, venomous, deadly, harmful, noxious विषाक्त
27. **Customary** (adjective) – Traditional, habitual, usual, routine, accustomed परंपरागत, प्रथागत
28. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to this point, thus far, hitherto, heretofore अब तक
29. **Institute** (verb) – Initiate, start, establish, introduce, launch स्थापित करना
30. **Make sure** (phrase) – Ensure, confirm, verify, ascertain सुनिश्चित करना
31. **The global south** (noun) – the poor developing countries (of Asia, Africa, South America, amongst others). विकासशील देश
32. **Watchdog** (noun) – Guardian, protector, defender, overseer पर्यवेक्षक
33. **Facilitator** (noun) – Enabler, helper, assistant, promoter सहायक

Summary of the Editorial

1. Recent reports indicate Indian-made drugs causing severe harm and patient deaths globally, with the latest cases reported in Sri Lanka.
2. Last month, Indian-made eye drops caused eye infections in 30 patients and blindness in 10 in Sri Lanka.
3. Similar issues with eye drops were reported in the U.S. months ago, with the CDC finding a highly drug-resistant bacteria in the medication.
4. Last year, WHO linked the deaths of 70 children in Gambia to Indian-made cough syrups containing deadly chemicals diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.
5. The same chemicals in cough syrups resulted in the death of 18 children in Uzbekistan in December 2022.
6. In April this year, contaminated Indian-made cough syrup was flagged in the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, identified by the Australian regulator.
7. Incidents of poisoning from diethylene glycol-contaminated drugs have been recorded in various Indian cities between 1972 and 2020.
8. The Indian drug regulator's response to these issues has been criticized, even giving a clean chit to the company supplying drugs to Gambia.
9. The regulator's stance was debunked when tests from Switzerland and Ghana confirmed toxic chemicals in the Gambian cough syrup sample.
10. Independent investigations by the Gambian Parliamentary Committee and CDC Atlanta linked the deaths to these toxic chemicals.
11. The Indian drug regulator's efforts so far have largely been limited to inspections, with no substantial measures implemented to ensure drug safety.
12. To maintain its position as the global south's pharmacy, the Indian drug regulator needs to step up its role in ensuring the safety of drugs produced for both export and domestic use.
13. The ongoing concerns surrounding drug safety highlight the need for more rigorous testing and regulatory scrutiny of pharmaceuticals in India.
14. Quality and safety of drugs manufactured in India must be the prime focus for Indian regulators, instead of facilitating the pharmaceutical industry.
15. The continued occurrence of these incidents calls for an overhaul of the regulatory framework, putting patient safety at the forefront.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is the major concern with Indian-made pharmaceutical products that needs to be addressed urgently?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. High production cost
 - B. Poor marketing strategy
 - C. Limited distribution to other countries
 - D. Quality and safety of the drugs
2. **Which of the following substances found in Indian-made cough syrups was reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) to cause adverse health effects, including deaths, in various countries?**
 - A. Paracetamol
 - B. Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol
 - C. Aspirin
 - D. Codeine
3. **Which of the following statements is accurate about the findings and reactions to cough syrups made in India?**
 - A. The World Health Organization linked cough syrups to acute liver injury in children in Gambia, and soon after, cough syrups caused 17 children's deaths in Uzbekistan.
 - B. The World Health Organization connected the deaths of at least 70 children in Gambia to cough syrups that contained diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, and similar incidents occurred in Uzbekistan and the Marshall Islands and Micronesia.
 - C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that cough syrups made in India caused the outbreak of a new strain of influenza in the United States.
 - D. Australian regulators found that Indian-made cough syrup contained a new, highly potent opioid drug, leading to an increase in opioid addiction in Australia.
4. **What were the consequences of using Indian-manufactured eye drops and anaesthetic drugs in Sri Lanka according to recent reports?**
 - A. The use of Indian-manufactured eye drops and anaesthetic drugs caused widespread food poisoning and allergic reactions in Sri Lanka.
 - B. The use of Indian-manufactured eye drops and anaesthetic drugs led to a significant rise in cases of heart disease and stroke in Sri Lanka.
 - C. The use of Indian-manufactured eye drops caused eye infections in about 30 patients and blindness in 10, while anaesthetic drugs resulted in the deaths of two patients in Sri Lanka.
 - D. The use of Indian-manufactured eye drops and anaesthetic drugs led to an outbreak of a new, drug-resistant strain of malaria in Sri Lanka.
5. **Based on the passage, what role should the Indian drug regulator play to maintain India's position as the pharmacy of the global south?**
 - A. It should conduct customary inspections more frequently.
 - B. It should behave like a facilitator for the pharma industry.
 - C. It should behave like a watchdog to ensure drug safety.
 - D. It should challenge the World Health Organization's decisions

6. **What role should the Indian drug regulator take on to ensure drug safety according to the paragraph?**
- A. Act as a facilitator for the pharma industry
 - B. Act as a mediator between WHO and Indian pharma companies
 - C. Act as a watchdog to ensure drug safety
 - D. Act as a marketer for Indian pharma products
7. **Based on the passage, how would you describe the author's tone?**
- A. Neutral
 - B. Critical
 - C. Optimistic
 - D. Enthusiastic
8. Which of the following words is an antonym for "**contaminated**"?
- A. Tainted
 - B. Polluted
 - C. Impure
 - D. Pure
9. **Select the correct homonym from the given options to fill in the blank**
The magician pulled a rabbit out of his ____.
- A. hat
 - B. had
 - C. hut
 - D. hit
10. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person who is new to a subject, skill, or belief
- A. Novice
 - B. Mentor
 - C. Expert
 - D. Recluse

Comprehension

In 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the first charter of its kind ____1____ basic rights to all children below 18 years, with these words: "Mankind owes to the child the best it can give." Yet, as is well-documented, children, because of their vulnerability, often become victims of abuse of power by the very people who are entrusted with their protection. The advancements in digital technologies ____2____ helped on many fronts, from registration of births, creating a legal identity to health care, but in its forward march, it should not ____3____ on the rights integral to a ____4____ upbringing of a child. Leaning on a child's fundamental right to privacy, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that children cannot be mechanically subjected ____5____ DNA tests in each and every case between warring parents as a shortcut to establishing infidelity.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Underscore
B. Constraining
C. Claiming
D. Ensuring
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
A. Have
B. Has
C. Was
D. Is
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
A. Battle
B. Trample
C. Enforce
D. Kindle
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
A. Injurious
B. Harmonious
C. Synchronous
D. Laborious
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**
A. In
B. By
C. With
D. To
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The Supreme Court has rejected the Election Commission's plea to restrain the media from reporting oral remarks made by judges during hearings, saying, 'Citizens have a right to know about what transpires in the course of judicial proceedings.'
Q. It refused to expunge the Madras High Court's observation that the poll panel was responsible for the surge in Covid-19 cases and its officers should be slapped with murder charges, saying that the remarks weren't part of the official judicial record
R. However, it appreciated the poll panel's work, saying,
S. 'The EC has a track record of being an independent constitutional body which shoulders a significant burden in ensuring the sanctity of electoral democracy.'
A. PQRS B. QRPS C. SQPR D. PRQS
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. While refusing to reconsider the landmark verdict and by quashing the Maharashtra law granting quota to the Maratha community in admissions and government jobs — which allowed it to exceed 60 per cent —
Q. It was in 1992 that a nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had drawn the 'Lakshman rekha' for reservation in jobs and education at 50 per cent, except in 'extraordinary circumstances'.

- R. A stern message was delivered that people from the Maratha community cannot be declared as educationally and socially backward to bring them within the reserved category since it would be a violation of not only the due process of law, but also the right to equality.
- S. The apex court has shown the rule book to governments and parties pandering to vote bank interests, and catering to demands that defeat the very purpose of reservation.
A. RSQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ
- 18. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Earlier this week, 24 patients, 23 of them Covid-infected, died in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar due to alleged shortage of the life-saving gas in the district hospital.
- Q. Though the Central government claims that there is no shortage of oxygen, the lapses are evident on all counts, be it production, allocation, transportation or supply.
- R. On Saturday, 12 Covid-19 patients, including a senior doctor, succumbed at a private hospital in New Delhi after it reportedly ran out of medical oxygen for more than an hour.
- S. The disruption of oxygen supply is causing deaths almost on a daily basis in the country.
A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ
- 19. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. European football has just witnessed the rise and fall of a multi-billion sporting empire — in less than three days.
- Q. The plans to form a league of elite, super-rich clubs who were to be given membership in perpetuity, with no need of qualification or fear of relegation, struck at the principle of sporting meritocracy. It was an attempt at a great heist, and it met with very hostile public opinion.
- R. ESL's base was, it was clear, the greed of the biggest clubs of Europe, except the ones from Germany and France, who didn't join.
- S. The plans to form the breakaway 20-team European Super League (ESL) are in disarray as English and Italian clubs have pulled out of the proposed league. Football leagues in Europe have a rich and cherished history, with fan loyalties going back four or even more generations.
A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
- 20. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Trouble is brewing for tea growers, orchardists and other farmers in rain-deficient Himachal Pradesh as agriculture is largely rain-fed. With over 70 per cent deficiency in rainfall and scanty snow witnessed since January, the farmers are suffering severe crop failure in terms of both quality and quantity.
- Q. In the Kullu valley, the apple producers are worried that owing to the inadequate amount of chilling time, their fruit of labour would be hit. Pear and cherry produce is similarly dependent upon chilling hours.
- R. Farmers in Bilaspur district have also been affected by the drought-like conditions as a 30-40 per cent reduction in wheat yield is feared because the crop is stunted. Cattle are being fed wheat as there is shortage of fodder in some areas. Earlier, the vegetable farmers of Solan faced tough times as their yield was reduced to half.

S. The dry weather has wilted the famous tea leaves in the Kangra valley, impacting the production by a whopping 75 per cent.

A. QRSP

B.QSRP

C.PSQR

D.PRQS

Answers

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

Explanations

1. D. Quality and safety of the drugs

The passage discusses multiple incidents of patient harm and deaths caused by Indian-made drugs, highlighting the presence of harmful or deadly chemicals in these drugs that shouldn't be found in any medicine. These incidents emphasize a serious issue of drug safety and quality control. Hence, the option 'Quality and safety of the drugs' best reflects the main concern expressed in the passage. Other options such as 'High production cost', 'Poor marketing strategy', and 'Limited distribution to other countries' aren't directly related to the main concern outlined in the passage.

2. B) Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol

The passage describes how cough syrups made in India were found to contain diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol. These substances, which were used as a cheaper substitute for propylene glycol, have caused severe harm, including death, and should never have been found in any medicine. The WHO has linked these substances to several incidents of harm, including the deaths of at least 70 children in Gambia and 18 children in Uzbekistan.

Option A, Paracetamol, is incorrect because this common pain reliever and fever reducer is not mentioned in the passage as causing harm. Similarly, Option C, Aspirin, and Option D, Codeine, are also incorrect because these substances are not mentioned in the passage as being involved in the incidents of harm caused by Indian-made drugs.

3. B. The World Health Organization connected the deaths of at least 70 children in Gambia to cough syrups that contained diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, and similar incidents occurred in Uzbekistan and the Marshall Islands and Micronesia.

According to the given paragraph, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified the deaths of 70 children in Gambia as related to cough syrups containing diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.

4. C. The use of Indian-manufactured eye drops caused eye infections in about 30 patients and blindness in 10, while anaesthetic drugs resulted in the deaths of two patients in Sri Lanka.

The paragraph explicitly mentions that eye drops manufactured in India caused eye infections in about 30 patients and blindness in 10. It also states that two patients died in Sri Lanka after being administered Indian-made anaesthetic drugs.

5. C) It should behave like a watchdog to ensure drug safety.

The passage criticizes the Indian drug regulator for its handling of a situation involving toxic chemicals in a cough syrup sample, suggesting that it did not do enough to ensure the safety of the drugs produced in India. It is suggested that the regulator should act as a watchdog for drug safety rather than facilitating the pharma industry. While A) is mentioned in the text, the passage emphasizes that more than customary inspections are needed. B) is clearly criticized

in the text, as it suggests a lack of rigor in ensuring safety. D) is not mentioned or suggested in the text. Therefore, the correct answer is C).

6. **C) Act as a watchdog to ensure drug safety**

According to the paragraph, there is a call for the Indian drug regulator to behave like a watchdog to ensure drug safety, rather than acting as a facilitator for the pharma industry. The text suggests that the regulator should perform robust inspections and assessments of the quality and safety of drugs produced in India, instead of just providing customary inspections and facilitating the operations of the pharma industry. The case of the drug supplied to Gambia that contained toxic chemicals highlights the need for stronger regulatory oversight to ensure that drugs produced in India for both domestic use and export are safe.

7. **B) Critical**

The author's tone can be described as critical. This is evidenced by their remarks on the failure of the Indian drug regulators to ensure the safety and quality of pharmaceutical products. They note multiple instances where drugs manufactured in India have caused harm and even deaths, and they strongly imply that the regulatory body is not adequately performing its role as a watchdog for drug safety.

8. **D) Pure**

Contaminated (adjective) – polluted, tainted, foul, dirty, infected दूषित

"**Contaminated**" in the passage refers to substances or drugs that have been made impure or unsafe by the presence of harmful or undesired elements.

9. **A. hat**

Explanation: In this context, the correct homonym is 'hat.' The sentence refers to a common magic trick where a magician pulls a rabbit out of a hat. The other options, 'had,' 'hut,' and 'hit,' are incorrect because they do not make sense in the context of the sentence

10. **A. Novice**

- **Novice** – He is a person who is new to a particular field, subject, or activity and has little or no experience or skill in it. नौसिखिया
- **Mentor**– he is an experienced and trusted advisor, शिक्षक
- **Expert** – He is someone who is highly knowledgeable and skilled in a particular area, निपुण
- **Recluse** – He is a person who lives a solitary life and tends to avoid other people. एकांतवासी

11. **D) Ensure** (verb) – make sure, make certain, see to it सुनिश्चित करना

- **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, underline, जोर देना
- **Constrain** (verb) – Compel, force, coerce, press, विवश करना
- **Claim** (verb) – to take lives of someone की जान लेना

12. A) In this context, the subject "**advancements**" is plural, referring to multiple developments or progressions in digital technologies. Therefore, the verb "have" is used because it agrees with the plural subject in number.

13. B) **Trample on** (verb) – to treat (a person or her rights) with disregard or contempt रौंदना

- **Battle** (verb) – Fight, combat, resist, withstand, stand up to सामना करना
- **Kindle** (verb) – Spark, light, burn, ignite, जलाना
- **Enforce** (verb) – cause (something) to happen by necessity or force; लागू करना

14. B) **Harmonious** (adjective) – Well-balanced, balanced, proportional; agreeable सुसंगत

- **Injurious** (adjective) – Harmful, damaging, detrimental, destructive, deleterious हानिकारक
- **Synchronous** (adjective) – existing or occurring at the same time. एक साथ होनेवाला
- **Laborious** (adjective) – Arduous, hard, heavy, strenuous, grueling कठिन

15. D) **(be) Subject (to)** (verb) – bring (a person) under one's control or jurisdiction, typically by using force. के अधीन होना

In this context, "**to**" is the only preposition that grammatically fits with "subjected" in the phrase "subjected to DNA tests".

16. A) **PQRS**

P: Sentence P introduces the topic by stating that the Supreme Court rejected the Election Commission's plea to restrict the media from reporting judges' oral remarks during hearings. It highlights the court's belief that citizens have a right to know about the proceedings.

Q: Q provides additional information about the court's decision. It mentions the court's refusal to expunge an observation made by the Madras High Court, which blamed the poll panel for the surge in Covid-19 cases and suggested that its officers should face murder charges. The sentence clarifies that the observation was not part of the official judicial record.

R: R follows sentence Q and begins with the word "However," indicating a contrast or shift in focus. It mentions that despite the court's refusal to expunge the observation, it still appreciated the work of the Election Commission. This appreciation acknowledges the commission's role as an independent constitutional body responsible for maintaining the sanctity of electoral democracy.

S: S concludes the paragraph by elaborating on the Supreme Court's view of the Election Commission. It highlights the commission's track record of independence and its significant responsibility in ensuring the sanctity of electoral democracy.

17. B) **QPSR**

Q: Sentence Q provides the context by mentioning the 1992 Supreme Court decision on the 50 percent cap on reservation, with exceptions in extraordinary circumstances.

P: Sentence P states that the Supreme Court refused to reconsider its verdict and nullified a Maharashtra law that allowed the Maratha community to exceed the 60 percent reservation limit.

S: Sentence S highlights the Supreme Court's action in showing the rule book to governments and parties that prioritize vote bank interests over the purpose of reservation.

R: Finally, sentence R emphasizes that declaring the Maratha community as educationally and socially backward for reservation purposes would violate due process of law and the right to equality. Thus, the coherent paragraph is arranged as QPSR.

18. D) **SPRQ**

S: S sets the context by stating that the disruption of oxygen supply is causing deaths almost on a daily basis in the country.

P: P provides an example to support the context mentioned in sentence S. It mentions the incident in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar where patients died due to an alleged shortage of life-saving gas.

R: R adds another example to illustrate the severity of the situation. It talks about the incident in New Delhi where Covid-19 patients, including a senior doctor, died after the hospital ran out of medical oxygen for more than an hour.

Q: Q comes last in the paragraph. It provides a broader perspective by mentioning the Central government's claim of no shortage of oxygen. It also points out that the lapses are evident in various aspects such as production, allocation, transportation, and supply.

19. B) **PSRQ**

P: The paragraph begins with sentence P, which introduces the topic of a multi-billion sporting empire rising and falling in European football.

S: Sentence S provides the context of the breakaway European Super League (ESL) and the disarray caused by English and Italian clubs pulling out.

R: Sentence R explains that the greed of the biggest clubs, except those from Germany and France, formed the base of the ESL.

Q: Finally, sentence Q elaborates on the plans of the ESL and how they clashed with the principle of sporting meritocracy, leading to hostile public opinion.

20. C) **PSQR**

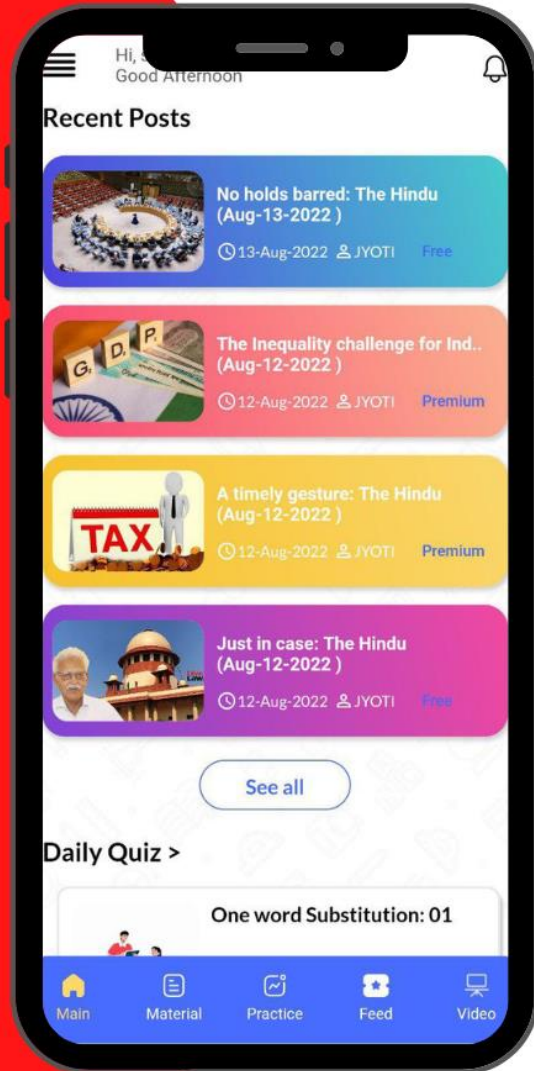
P: The first sentence (P) introduces the main problem of trouble brewing for tea growers, orchardists, and other farmers in rain-deficient Himachal Pradesh due to the agriculture being largely rain-fed. It mentions the deficiency in rainfall and scanty snow, which has led to severe crop failure in terms of both quality and quantity.

S: The second sentence (S) provides specific information about the impact of the dry weather on tea production in the Kangra valley. It states that the production has been impacted by a whopping 75 percent due to the wilted tea leaves caused by the dry weather

Q: The third sentence (Q) shifts the focus to the apple producers in the Kullu valley. It explains their concerns about the inadequate amount of chilling time, which could potentially harm

their fruit production. It also mentions that pear and cherry produce is similarly dependent upon chilling hours.

R: The final sentence (R) talks about the drought-like conditions affecting farmers in Bilaspur district. It mentions a 30-40 percent reduction in wheat yield due to the stunted crop. It also highlights the shortage of fodder in some areas, which has led to feeding wheat to cattle. It briefly refers to the vegetable farmers of Solan who faced tough times with a reduced yield.



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