

## A welcome step: on the Blinken-Xi meet in China

The U.S. and China must continue to keep **diplomatic** channels open

The United States and China this week took a **much-needed** step towards repairing their relations as Antony Blinken visited Beijing, the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of State since 2018. The main **takeaway** from the visit, during which he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, **was** their agreeing on the need for **stability** in **ties**. Mr. Xi told Mr. Blinken that the international community was “**concerned**” about the current **state of relations** and “does not want to see conflict or **confrontation**”. Mr. Blinken said following the talks that “both agree on the need to **stabilise** our relationship”. **Differences**, no doubt, remain, and the visit expectedly did not **yield breakthroughs** on **contentious** issues such as U.S. export **curbs** or Taiwan. But the very fact that Mr. Xi met with the **visiting** U.S. **diplomat** was a clear sign of progress **given** the cancellation of Mr. Blinken’s visit in February and the **rancour** that followed the **shooting down** of the Chinese “**spy balloon**” over the U.S. As Mr. Blinken put it, the objective was to “**strengthen** high-level challenges of communication, to **make clear** our positions and intentions in areas of **disagreement**” and to **explore** areas where both “might work together ... on shared **transnational** challenges”. Asked in Beijing how the Biden administration will continue with its attempt to fix relations with China as the domestic **discourse** likely worsens in the **lead up to** the 2024 elections, he argued that continued engagement was the best **avenue** to protect U.S. interests, including on trade.

The challenge now is whether they can **sustain** this effort at **arresting** the **slide** and keep diplomatic channels open, even when the next crisis **inevitably** emerges and **against the backdrop** of increasingly **heated** domestic political **rhetoric**. As Mr. Xi told Mr. Blinken, countries do not want to “choose sides”. This is especially true in the region, where nations continue to have deep economic linkages with China and close security ties with the U.S. **That** Beijing and Washington are appearing to agree on the need for stability **should** be welcomed, including by India. While shared concerns about China may be a **binding** factor, the India-U.S. relationship today has acquired a deeper and broader scope, which will be **affirmed** this week during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit, in new agreements expected in the defence **domain** and in technology cooperation. In **the not-too-distant past**, high-level **visits** from Washington to Beijing **may** have **evoked** some **unease** in New Delhi, particularly during the **short-lived** “G2” phase during the Obama administration, but that is no longer the **case**.

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Vocabulary

1. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Tactful, subtle, discreet, sensitive, cautious कूटनीतिक
2. **Channel** (noun) – Medium, instrument, mechanism, means प्रणाली
3. **Much-needed** (adjective) – is highly necessary बेहद जरूरी
4. **Takeaway** (noun) – A important point
5. **Stability** (noun) –steadiness, balance, constancy, equilibrium, permanence स्थिरता
6. **Ties** (noun) – association, relationship, bond, connection संबंध
7. **Concerned** (adjective) – worried, distressed, anxious, bothered, troubled चिंतित
8. **State of relations** (phrase) – condition of ties, standing of connections, status of associations, level of relationships, situation of bonds संबंधों की स्थिति
9. **Confrontation** (noun) – conflict, clash, fight, dispute, standoff आमना-सामना
10. **Stabilise** (verb) – balance, steady, maintain, secure, sustain स्थिर करना
11. **Differences** (noun) – disagreements, disputes, conflicts, divergences, variances मतभेद
12. **Yield** (verb) – produce, generate, give, provide, furnish उत्पन्न करना
13. **Breakthrough** (noun) – advance, development, discovery, progress, step forward प्रगति/ सफलता
14. **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, disputable, arguable, debatable, polemic विवादास्पद
15. **Curb** (noun) – restraint, restriction, check, limit, control नियंत्रण
16. **Visiting** (adjective) – (of a person) on a visit to a person or place. आगंतुक
17. **Diplomat** (noun) – ambassador, envoy, representative, consul, emissary राजदूत
18. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, in view of, regarding, with regard to देखते हुए
19. **Rancour** (noun) – bitterness, spite, resentment, ill feeling, hostility रंजिश, विद्वेष
20. **Shooting down** (noun) – destruction, blasting, knocking down, downing, crashing नीचे गिराना
21. **Spy balloon** (noun) – a gas-filled balloon that is flying quite high in the sky, more or less where we fly commercial airplanes. It has some sophisticated cameras and imaging technology on it, and it's pointing all of those instruments down at the ground. जासूसी गुब्बारा

22. **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, fortify, bolster, support, solidify मजबूत करना
23. **Make clear** (phrase) – clarify, elucidate, explain, expound, interpret स्पष्ट करना
24. **Disagreement** (noun) – difference of opinion, dispute, argument, debate, controversy मतभेद
25. **Explore** (verb) – investigate, examine, probe, study, research पता लगाना, खोजना
26. **Transnational** (adjective) – international, global, worldwide, intercontinental, cross-border अंतरराष्ट्रीय
27. **Discourse** (noun) – discussion, conversation, dialogue, communication, chat वार्तालाप
28. **Lead up to** (noun) – The events that led up to a particular event happened one after the other until that event occurred
29. **Avenue** (noun) – way, path, route, channel, course मार्ग
30. **Sustain** (verb) – maintain, continue, keep up, carry on, preserve बनाए रखना
31. **Arrest** (verb) – Halt, stop, block, prevent, obstruct, impede, hinder रोकना
32. **Slide** (noun) – decline, downturn, slump, decrease, drop गिरावट
33. **Inevitably** (adverb) – unavoidably, necessarily, inevitably, naturally, unquestionably अपरिहार्य रूप से
34. **Against the backdrop** (phrase) – in the context of, in the background of, amidst, in the midst of, considering के संदर्भ में
35. **Heated** (adjective) – intense, fiery, passionate, fervent, vehement गरमागरम (बहस)
36. **Rhetoric** (noun) – a way of speaking or writing that is intended to impress or influence people but is not always sincere लफ्फाजी, बयानबाजी
37. **Binding** (adjective) – compelling, obligatory, mandatory, requisite, necessary बाध्यकारी
38. **Affirm** (verb) – confirm, assert, declare, validate, uphold पुष्टि करना
39. **Domain** (noun) – sphere, realm, field, area; sphere of operation क्षेत्र
40. **The not-too-distant past** (phrase) – recent past, not long ago, a while back, fairly recently, a short while ago थोड़ी दूर का अतीत
41. **Evoke** (verb) – elicit, provoke, generate, inspire, arouse प्रकट करना
42. **Unease** (noun) – anxiety, discomfort, apprehension, unrest, disquiet असहजता
43. **Short-lived** (adjective) – brief, fleeting, momentary, transient, temporary क्षणिक
44. **Case** (noun) – instance, situation, scenario, condition, circumstance स्थिति

## Summary of the Editorial

1. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Beijing, marking the first official visit by a U.S. official since 2018, signaling a move towards repairing relations between the U.S. and China.
2. In the meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, both leaders emphasized the need for stability in their bilateral relations.
3. The international community is concerned about the current U.S.-China relations and wishes to avoid conflict or confrontation, as indicated by Xi Jinping.
4. Despite remaining differences, no breakthroughs were expected or achieved on contentious issues such as U.S. export curbs or Taiwan during this visit.
5. The fact that Xi Jinping met with Blinken is seen as a clear sign of progress, especially after the cancellation of Blinken's previous visit and the subsequent tensions following the shooting down of a Chinese "spy balloon" over the U.S.
6. The objective of the visit was to enhance high-level communication, clarify disagreements, and explore areas of potential cooperation, as described by Blinken.
7. When asked about the future of U.S.-China relations ahead of the 2024 elections, Blinken argued that continued engagement is the best way to protect U.S. interests, including in trade.
8. The challenge lies in maintaining diplomatic channels and preventing further deterioration in relations amidst inevitable crises and heated domestic political rhetoric.
9. Xi Jinping emphasized that countries do not want to choose sides, a sentiment echoed by countries in the region with deep economic ties with China and close security relationships with the U.S.
10. The agreement between Beijing and Washington on the need for stability in their relations is a positive sign and should be welcomed by the international community, including India.
11. Shared concerns about China serve as a binding factor in U.S.-India relations.
12. The relationship between India and the U.S. has deepened and broadened, as will be demonstrated in the forthcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
13. The visit will likely see new agreements in the defense domain and technology cooperation between India and the U.S.
14. Unlike in the past, high-level visits from Washington to Beijing no longer evoke unease in New Delhi, signaling a shift in India's stance.
15. The diplomatic developments underscore the evolving geopolitical dynamics and the importance of maintaining open dialogue and cooperation among nations.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern based

1. **What can be inferred from Antony Blinken's statements following his visit to China?**
  - A. The U.S. intends to cut all diplomatic relations with China due to their unresolved disagreements. [Editorial page]
  - B. The U.S. aims to confront China more aggressively on contentious issues such as U.S. export curbs or Taiwan.
  - C. The U.S. is focused on reducing high-level communication channels with China as the 2024 elections approach.
  - D. The U.S. plans to maintain engagement with China, utilizing diplomatic channels to clarify positions, intentions, and work on shared challenges.
2. **Which of the following statements is incorrect, based on the given paragraph about the Blinken-Xi meet in China?**
  - A. Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing marked the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of State to China since 2018.
  - B. The main outcome of the meeting was the mutual agreement between Blinken and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the need to stabilize their nations' relationship.
  - C. Blinken's visit was expected to solve all major contentious issues between the U.S. and China, such as U.S. export curbs and Taiwan.
  - D. Blinken stated that despite likely worsening domestic discourse before the 2024 elections, continuous engagement with China is the best way to protect U.S. interests, including on trade.
3. **Which of the following can be inferred from the passage above?**
  - A. The U.S. and China are at war.
  - B. The U.S. and China are making efforts to keep diplomatic channels open despite challenges.
  - C. India has severed all ties with the U.S. and China.
  - D. The U.S. and China have stopped diplomatic communication with each other
4. **Which of the following statements is incorrect in the context of the paragraph?**
  - A. The main challenge that the U.S. and China face today is maintaining open diplomatic channels even amid crises and domestic political tensions.
  - B. The countries in the region have extensive economic ties with China and strong security relationships with the U.S., and they do not wish to choose sides.
  - C. The India-U.S. relationship today is primarily driven by their shared concerns about China.
  - D. There were times in the recent past when high-level visits from Washington to Beijing would cause unease in New Delhi, but that is no longer the situation
5. **How can the tone of the passage best be described?**
  - A. Cynical
  - B. Indifferent
  - C. Optimistic
  - D. Pessimistic
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**

- A. The economic conflicts between the U.S. and China
  - B. The ongoing diplomatic dialogues between the U.S. and China
  - C. The technological advancements in the U.S. and China
  - D. The military rivalry between the U.S. and China
7. Which of the following is a synonym for the term '**contentious**' as used in the passage?
- A. Trivial
  - B. Easygoing
  - C. Debatable
  - D. Congruent
8. What is the synonym for the word '**rancour**' as used in the passage?
- A. Affection
  - B. Bitterness
  - C. Joy
  - D. Compliment

### Comprehension

The world's lived experience with pandemics has \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ it with the \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ that epidemics \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ to die down, or transform into seasonal outbreaks; COVID-19 is no exception. The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, last week declared, on the basis of advice from the emergency committee (comprising independent experts), that the COVID-19 pandemic was no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. After over three years, he was reading \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ an emergency that he first announced on January 30, 2020, forced by a rapidly spreading infection that moved from China to 20 other nations across the world.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
- A. Premise
  - B. Exercised
  - C. Conferred
  - D. Criticised
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
- A. Abundant
  - B. Assent
  - C. Consent
  - D. Certitude
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. Wane
  - B. Disposed
  - C. Bear
  - D. Appear
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. Up

- B. Down
- C. For
- D. Into

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

- P. The Army Chief's assertion that there can be no de-escalation without complete disengagement at all friction points gives a broad view of India's approach.
- Q. A year after the deadly clashes between the Indian and Chinese armies in the Galwan valley in eastern Ladakh, tension in the region continues and the trust deficit reigns supreme.
- R. However, 11 rounds of discussions between the two sides later, China, it is amply clear, has no intention of taking any further step back after the Pangong Tso troop withdrawal. The road ahead appears conflict-ridden.
- S. Galwan may have crystallised New Delhi's military, diplomatic and economic strategy towards Beijing, as well as recalibrated the short-term and long-term goals, but the challenges are only mounting

- A. QSPR      B.RPSQ      C.QPRS      D.RQSP

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

- P. The miner-politician-official nexus enjoys immunity, cocking a snook at those daring to expose them. Every time the mafia manages to escape getting caught, it comes at a huge cost to the ecology.
- Q. Concrete steps must be taken to bring to book the powerful mining mafia. The negligible rate of conviction despite many complaints lodged by locals and activists against some accused only emboldens the perpetrators of this highly lucrative illegal trade that is pillaging the mountains and riverbeds.
- R. The Geological Survey of India's conclusion of the study into the massive cave-in of the 150-m stretch of the Paonta Sahib-Shillai road (NH-707) on July 30 following heavy rain corroborates the findings of other experts in Himachal Pradesh over the past several years. Fingers have again been pointed at the rampant illegal quarrying for the cave-in.
- S. It is imperative that the GSI report leads to action rather than it being consigned to the back-burner, like most other reports cautioning the authorities against the dangers of over-exploitation of natural resources.

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

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

- P. The statement issued by prominent members from all walks of society says that one of the most authentic
- Q. Gandhian monuments would be lost to 'vanity and commercialisation' once the plan gets implemented, affecting the authenticity and simplicity of the place
- R. Perturbed by the perceived attempts by the government to appropriate Gandhian institutions in the country, over hundred eminent personalities have rightly protested against the move, even calling it an attempt at a 'second assassination' of the Father of the Nation.



- S. The project aims to turn the place where Mahatma Gandhi lived for 13 years into a world-class tourist destination, resulting in displacement of families living there and change in the landscape of the ashram itself.  
A. RPSQ      B.RSPQ      C.SRQP      D.SPRQ
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Credit goes to the designer and builder at the helm — the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Design and the state-owned Cochin Shipyard Limited, respectively — for successfully navigating the delays and price escalations that threatened to rock the boat along the way.
- Q. Proudly displaying the military might and defence engineering capability of India in the high seas is the country’s maiden Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) that on Wednesday sailed out for rigorous trials to validate its efficiency.
- R. And, in a heartwarming affirmation of the acceptance of women officers on board for combat duties, the makers made sure to secure accommodation for them.
- S. It marks an important milestone for this vessel — which has been in the making for nearly 20 years — before it is commissioned in the Indian Navy as INS Vikrant next year. Behind this stellar accomplishment that has catapulted India to the stratospheric band of nations (the US, UK, France, China, Russia) equipped with the expertise to manufacture such a warship, it has been a relentless all-hands-on-deck effort.  
A. QSRP      B.PQRS      C.QSPR      D.PQSR
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Hefty fines have been recommended. The action taken report would be keenly awaited.
- Q. Feeding a black market fuelled by the booming construction industry, sand is a lucrative commodity and hence, its mining from the riverbed — unregulated and rampant in most cases — is both pushed and protected by the powerful.
- R. The NGT, in its latest order, has directed the Himachal Pradesh government to hold to account officials in light of the illegal mining in Swan river in Una district, and brainstorm at the highest levels to check the activity.
- S. No wonder then that the terror and reach of the sand mafia run deep, and despite stringent strictures passed regularly by the National Green Tribunal and the courts, law enforcement continues to be missing or is lax on the ground.  
A. QRSP      B.QSRP      C.PSQR      D.PRQS
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
A government by the people or their elected representatives  
A. Monarchy  
B. Oligarchy  
C. Democracy  
D. Autocracy
19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**  
She asked me why I had been smoking that day  
A. She said to me, “Why were you smoking today?”  
B. She said to me, “Why are you smoking today?”  
C. She said to me, “Why you smoke today?”



- D. She says to me, "Why were you smoking this day?"
20. What is the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom "**break a leg**"?
- A. Literally fracture one's leg
  - B. Perform poorly
  - C. Wish someone good luck in a performance
  - D. To cancel a show or event

## Answers

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

## Explanations

- Option D is correct. In the passage, Antony Blinken, the U.S. Secretary of State, highlights the importance of "strengthen[ing] high-level challenges of communication, to make clear our positions and intentions in areas of disagreement" following his visit to China. He also mentions the exploration of areas where both countries might work together on shared transnational challenges. His statements suggest that despite the differences, the U.S. aims to continue engaging with China to protect U.S. interests, including in areas of trade. Options A, B, and C present strategies that contrast with the diplomatic approach Blinken mentioned, making them incorrect.
- The correct answer is C. According to the text, while Blinken's visit was a significant step towards improving U.S.-China relations, it did not yield breakthroughs on contentious issues such as U.S. export curbs or Taiwan. Thus, the assertion that Blinken's visit was expected to solve all major contentious issues between the U.S. and China is incorrect. The other options (A, B, and D) accurately reflect the details mentioned in the provided paragraph.

**3. B) The U.S. and China are making efforts to keep diplomatic channels open despite challenges.**

The paragraph emphasizes the importance of the U.S. and China sustaining diplomatic communication, even amidst inevitable future crises and heated domestic political rhetoric. It mentions their shared need for stability, and how these efforts are welcomed by other nations, including India. Therefore, option B is the most correct, as it reflects the key inference that can be made from the passage. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the text.

- The incorrect statement is C. According to the paragraph, while shared concerns about China may play a role in strengthening the India-U.S. relationship, the relationship has acquired a broader scope. It is not solely driven by shared concerns about China. Rather, it also includes significant defense domain agreements and technology cooperation, which is being further enhanced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit.

**5. C. Optimistic**

The author maintains a hopeful and positive tone throughout the passage, as evident in phrases such as "much-needed step towards repairing their relations", "clear sign of progress", "continued engagement was the best avenue", and "agree on the need for stability should be welcomed". This tone shows optimism for the future of U.S.-China relations.

**6. B. The ongoing diplomatic dialogues between the U.S. and China**

The passage primarily discusses the diplomatic interactions between the U.S. and China, highlighting the recent meeting between Antony Blinken and President Xi Jinping, and the steps they are taking towards stability in their relations. Despite mentioning other aspects like the contentious issues between the two nations, the overarching theme is the continuation of diplomatic dialogues for better future relationships.

7. C. **Debatable**

**Contentious** (adjective) – Disputable, controversial, debatable, polemical, argumentative  
विवादास्पद

The term '**contentious**' is used in the passage to describe issues like U.S. export curbs or Taiwan that are a source of disagreement or controversy between the U.S. and China.

8. B. **Bitterness**

**Rancor** (noun) – Hatred, hostility, bitterness, spite, resentment, animosity विद्वेष

The word '**rancor**' in the passage refers to the bitterness or resentfulness that followed after the shooting down of the Chinese "spy balloon" over the U.S.

9. C) **Confer** (verb) – Grant, bestow, award, present, accord प्रदान करना

The verb "**conferred**" fits best in this context, meaning that the world's experiences with pandemics has "given" or "bestowed" it with certain knowledge or understanding.

- **Premise** (on) (verb) – base, found, establish, ground, rest (on) पर आधारित होना
- **Exercise** (verb) – Carry out, perform, implement, apply प्रयोग करना
- **Criticise** (verb) – condemn, denounce, disapprove आलोचना करना

10. D) **Certitude** (noun) – Certainty, assurance, conviction, confidence, sureness निश्चितता

"**Certitude**" means certainty or confidence, which fits the context since it refers to the certainty or confidence that epidemics tend to die down or become seasonal.

- **Assent** (noun) – Agreement, approval, consent, concurrence, endorsement सहमति
- **Abundant** (adjective) – Plentiful, ample, copious, profuse प्रचुर
- **Consent** (noun) – agreement, assent, concurrence, accord सहमति

11. A) **Wane** (verb) – Diminish, decline, decrease, lessen, fade कम होना

The verb "**wane**" is the most appropriate option in this context, as it signifies decrease in strength or intensity which is what happens when epidemics die down or become seasonal.

- **Dispose** (of) (verb) – discard, get rid of, dispense with, clear out का निपटारा करना
- **Bear** (verb) – Carry, shoulder, support, sustain, endure सहना, संभालना
- **Appear** (verb) – Seem, look, emerge, materialize, come into view लगना

12. B) **Read down** (phrasal verb) – Interpret, construe, explain, clarify, understand समझाना

"**Down**" is the most appropriate option in this context. The phrase "reading down" is a legal term that means to interpret a law in a way that makes it constitutionally valid

13. C) **QPRS**

**Q:** This sentence sets the context for the paragraph by introducing the subject matter of the deadly clashes between the Indian and Chinese armies in the Galwan valley in eastern Ladakh, along with the continued tension and mistrust. This statement naturally comes first as it sets the stage for the rest of the paragraph.

**P:** This sentence builds upon the first one by adding a specific detail about India's approach to the situation, as expressed by the Army Chief. The statement in this sentence is dependent on the reader understanding the context, which is provided by the first sentence

**R:** This sentence advances the narrative by discussing the outcome of the discussions between the two sides, implying that despite India's approach (mentioned in P), China isn't backing down. This sentence naturally follows P because it illustrates how China's behavior contrasts with India's approach.

**S:** This sentence serves as a conclusion or summary, as it sums up the implications of the entire situation on India's strategy towards China and the mounting challenges. This sentence encapsulates the narrative developed in Q, P, and R, making it an appropriate final statement.

14. **A) RSQP**

**R:** First, the context or problem should be introduced, which is done by sentence R. It talks about the Geological Survey of India's study and its conclusion regarding illegal quarrying activities causing a massive cave-in. This sentence effectively sets up the issue at hand

**S:** Sentence S follows up on the information in R by emphasizing the need for the Geological Survey of India's report to lead to action, rather than being ignored. It refers directly to the report discussed in R, thus creating a clear continuation of the topic

**Q:** Sentence Q expands on the need for action by calling for specific measures to address the issue of the mining mafia. It supports the call to action from sentence S and adds details about the nature and impacts of the illegal activities.

**P:** Finally, sentence P concludes the sequence by underlining the power dynamics at play in this situation, and the challenges faced by those attempting to expose these illegal activities

15. **B) RSPQ**

**R:** Sentence R sets up the context and introduces the main conflict: perceived attempts by the government to alter Gandhian institutions and the protest by prominent personalities against this action

**S:** Sentence S provides specific details about the project, namely the transformation of the place where Gandhi lived into a tourist spot, and the potential repercussions of this move

**P:** Sentence P then refers back to the protest, offering a specific detail: the statement issued by the protesting individuals

**Q:** Finally, Sentence Q expands on the concerns voiced in the statement, concluding the paragraph by discussing the potential loss of a historic monument and the impact on the place's authenticity.

16. **C) QSPR**

**Q:** (Proudly displaying the military might and defence engineering capability of India in the high seas is the country's maiden Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) that on Wednesday sailed out for rigorous trials to validate its efficiency) This statement serves as an introduction, introducing the topic - the maiden Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) of India that is now being tested

**S:** This sentence expands upon the introductory sentence, providing context and historical

information about the aircraft carrier's journey and significance, and sets the stage for recognizing the efforts and entities behind its construction

**P:** This sentence follows naturally from the previous one, acknowledging and giving credit to the entities involved in the construction and design of the IAC-1, addressing challenges faced during its making

**R:** The last sentence adds an additional significant aspect about the carrier - the inclusivity of women officers, giving the paragraph a broader societal perspective and a satisfying conclusion

#### 17. B) QSRP

**Q:** The paragraph starts with an introduction to the problem of illegal sand mining (Q).

**S:** It then describes the depth of the problem and the ineffectiveness of law enforcement (S)

**R:** The next sentence (R) provides an example of an intervention by the National Green Tribunal directing the government to hold officials accountable.

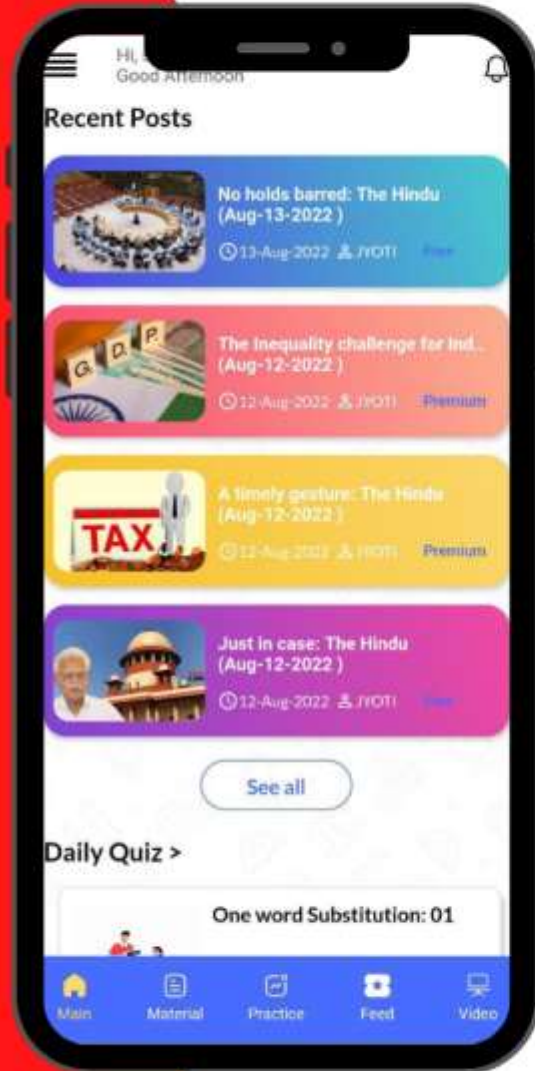
**P:** Finally, it ends with the expected outcomes and future anticipation for the situation (P), including hefty fines and the awaited action taken report.

#### 18. C. Democracy

- **Democracy** – it is a system of government in which power is vested in the people, who rule either directly or through freely elected representatives. प्रजातंत्र
- **Monarchy** – It is a form of government in which a single person, usually a king or queen, holds supreme power. राजतंत्र
- **Oligarchy** – It is a form of government in which a small group of people have control अल्पतांत्रिक-अधिकारी
- **Autocracy** – It is a system of government in which a single person holds all the power. निरंकुशता

19. A. She said to me, "Why were you smoking today?"

20. C) **break a leg** (phrase) – used for wishing someone good luck, especially before a performance  
भाग्य तुम्हारे साथ हो



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

