

A new regime: On the Emergency Use Authorisation regime in India and clinical trials

India must **keep an eye on adverse** reactions from new drugs and vaccines

Last week, the Drug Controller General of India cleared, under the **provisions** of 'emergency use authorisation', a new **mRNA vaccine** for COVID-19 developed by Pune-based Genovra Biopharmaceuticals, a **pioneer** in India in developing mRNA vaccines. The vaccine is meant to be particularly effective against the **dominant** Omicron variant. With the World Health Organization having officially declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no longer the **obsessive** public interest in new variants. Even less so in newer vaccines. Data suggest that the **uptake** of booster, or 'precautionary doses' of the **array** of COVID vaccines available in India **has** been declining for several months. Therefore, the **significance** of the new vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, **is** that it shows that an Indian company has the capability to make an mRNA vaccine, believed to be **amenable** to rapid production and **scale-up**, that could be useful against any future virus.

Normally, vaccines must go through **progressive** stages of testing, from **petri dishes**, to animals and **expanding cohorts** of human test subjects. **Doing** greater harm than good, or being unable to be better than the alternative in any of these stages **is** a **ground** for disqualification. Which is why vaccine development and approvals are a **decades-long enterprise**. During COVID-19, this **risk-averse** strategy was **deemed** unsuitable for the crisis **at hand** because of which drug **regulators** globally allowed vaccine makers to combine multiple stages while **evaluating efficacy**, thus giving greater **leeway** to experimental formulations. This **underlines** the basic **framework** of 'emergency use authorizations (EUA)' adopted by regulators globally. **Unlike** the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that has for many years been **evaluating** novel drug and vaccine candidates, India's regulatory system has largely been **geared toward** evaluating **formulations** that have been approved abroad and in **assessing** their suitability to India. **Mistrust, arbitrary decree** and **lax** regulations have historically **plagued** clinical trials in India. More than evidence-based **assessment**, it was a **technicality** in India's 'New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019' that allowed EUA in India for COVID-19 vaccines. A **credible regime** of phased, clinical trials and independent regulation for new drugs **is** still in its **infancy** in India. The FDA still **authorises** updated COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use provisions because while the pandemic is over, COVID-19 is not and thousands continue to die globally. This alone, however, cannot be the basis for continuing with the EUA regime in India. While the **flexibility** to **accelerate** should always be present, India must **specify** a **streamlined** regulatory process that **weeds out** non-essential steps but is **hawk-eyed** on safety and **adverse** reactions from new drugs and vaccines.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Regime** (noun) – system, arrangement, scheme, code व्यवस्था
2. **Keep an eye on** (phrase) – keep under careful observation नज़र रखना
3. **Adverse** (adjective) – Unfavorable, harmful, opposing प्रतिकूल
4. **Provision** (noun) – term, clause, requirement, specification प्रावधान
5. **mRNA vaccine** (noun) – a type of vaccine that uses a copy of a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) to produce an immune response
6. **Pioneer** (noun) – trailblazer, innovator, groundbreaker, pathfinder, frontrunner अग्रणी, अग्र-दूत
7. **Dominant** (adjective) – predominant, chief, principal, leading, foremost प्रमुख
8. **Obsessive** (adjective) – Compulsive, fanatic, maniacal, excessive, uncontrolled जुनूनी
9. **Uptake** (noun) – the taking in or absorption of a substance by a living organism or bodily organ.
10. **Precautionary** (adjective) – Protective, preventive, safety, defensive, cautionary एहतिहाती
11. **Array** (noun) – Assortment, range, collection, selection, series श्रृंखला
12. **Significance** (noun) – Importance, meaning, relevance, value, implication महत्त्व
13. **Amenable** (adjective) – Obedient; willing to give in to the wishes of another; agreeable उत्तरदायी
14. **Scale-up** (noun) – Expansion, increase, growth, enlargement, augmentation विस्तारण
15. **Progressive** (adjective) – Advancing, forward-thinking, innovative, developmental, improving प्रगतिशील
16. **Petri dish** (noun) – a place or situation in which something can be tested, examined, or encouraged to develop
17. **Expand** (verb) – Increase, enlarge, extend, amplify, magnify बढ़ाना
18. **Cohort** (noun) – a group of people with a shared characteristic. समूह
19. **Ground** (noun) – Reason, basis, rationale, justification आधार
20. **Decades-long** (adjective) – lasting two or more decades दशक भर
21. **Enterprise** (noun) – Exercise, activity, pursuit, measure, task काम
22. **Risk-averse** (adjective) – reluctant to take risks जोखिम से बचनेवाला

23. **Deem** (verb) – Consider, believe, think, judge
मानना
24. **At hand** (phrase) – near in time or position
के निकट (समय या स्थिति)
25. **Regulator** (noun) – Controller, supervisor,
overseer, manager नियामक
26. **Evaluate** (verb) – Assess, judge, gauge, rate
मूल्यांकन करना
27. **Efficacy** (noun) – Effectiveness, efficiency,
power, potency प्रभावशीलता
28. **Leeway** (noun) – Freedom, flexibility,
latitude, scope स्वतंत्रता
29. **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight,
underscore, stress जोर देना
30. **Framework** (noun) – Structure, system,
model, scheme ढांचा
31. **Unlike** (preposition) – Contrary to, dissimilar
to, different from के विपरीत
32. **Evaluate** (verb) – Appraise, analyse,
examine, review मूल्यांकन करना
33. **Gear toward** (phrasal verb) – To be suited to
or have a focus on a particular audience or
objective के लिए तैयार करना
34. **Formulation** (noun) – a material or mixture
prepared according to a formula. सूत्रीकरण
35. **Assess** (verb) – Determine, measure,
appraise, estimate मूल्यांकन करना
36. **Mistrust** (noun) – Doubt, suspicion,
skepticism, disbelief, distrust अविश्वास
37. **Arbitrary** (adjective) – Random, capricious,
discretionary, subjective, indiscriminate
मनमाना
38. **Decree** (noun) – Order, command, mandate,
edict, proclamation फरमान
39. **Lax** (adjective) – not having high standards;
not strict सुस्त, लापरवाह
40. **Plagued** (adjective) – Afflicted, beset,
troubled, burdened, tormented त्रस्त
41. **Assessment** (noun) – Evaluation, appraisal,
analysis, examination, estimation मूल्यांकन
42. **Technicality** (noun) – Fine point, subtlety,
nicety, minor detail, small detail तकनीकी
विवरण
43. **Credible** (adjective) – Believable,
trustworthy, reliable, plausible, convincing
विश्वसनीय
44. **Infancy** (noun) – Beginning, incipience, early
stage, inception शुरुआत का दौर
45. **Authorise** (verb) – Approve, sanction,
permit, allow, endorse अधिकृत करना
46. **Flexibility** (noun) – Adaptability, pliability,
adjustability, versatility लचीलापन
47. **Accelerate** (verb) – Hasten, speed up,
expedite, quicken, rush गति बढ़ाना

48. **Specify** (verb) – Detail, outline, set out, stipulate, designate निर्दिष्ट करना

49. **Streamlined** (adjective) – Efficient, optimized, well-organized, smooth, streamlined सुव्यवस्थित

50. **Weed out** (phrasal verb) – Eliminate, remove, get rid of, discard, exclude निकाल देना

51. **Hawk-eyed** (adjective) – Vigilant, watchful, alert, attentive, eagle-eyed चौकन्ना, पैना

52. **Adverse** (adjective) – Unfavourable, harmful, detrimental, damaging, deleterious प्रतिकूल

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Drug Controller General of India recently authorized a new mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, developed by Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals under 'emergency use authorization' (EUA) rules.
2. The new vaccine is particularly effective against the dominant Omicron variant of the virus.
3. The World Health Organization has declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has diminished public interest in new vaccines.
4. Data indicates a declining uptake of COVID-19 booster shots in India.
5. The significance of GEMCOVAC-OM lies in demonstrating that an Indian company can produce a rapid-scale mRNA vaccine, which could be useful against future viruses.
6. Vaccine development typically involves progressive stages of testing, from petri dishes to human subjects, a process that can take decades.
7. The urgency of the COVID-19 crisis led to global regulators permitting vaccine manufacturers to combine multiple testing stages to expedite the process.
8. India's regulatory system has historically focused on assessing drugs approved overseas for their suitability within the country.
9. Issues such as mistrust, arbitrary decisions, and relaxed regulations have historically impacted clinical trials in India.
10. A technicality in India's 'New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019' allowed for the EUA of COVID-19 vaccines in the country.
11. A credible regime of phased clinical trials and independent regulation for new drugs is still developing in India.
12. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to authorize updated COVID-19 vaccines under EUA provisions due to the ongoing global impact of the virus.
13. Despite the end of the pandemic, COVID-19 is still prevalent, with thousands dying globally.
14. The editorial suggests that the EUA regime shouldn't continue to be the basis for authorization in India.
15. The author concludes by emphasizing the need for India to establish a streamlined regulatory process that eliminates non-essential steps but remains vigilant on safety and adverse reactions from new drugs and vaccines.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the critical factor that emphasizes the significance of the new mRNA vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, developed by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals according to the passage?** Editorial
 - A. It is specifically effective against the Omicron variant of COVID-19.
 - B. It is the first mRNA vaccine developed by an Indian company, demonstrating the capability for rapid production and potential use against future viruses.
 - C. It has been cleared under the provisions of 'emergency use authorisation' by the Drug Controller General of India.
 - D. The World Health Organization has officially declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **What is the primary reason, as discussed in the passage, for the continuation of 'emergency use authorizations (EUA)' for COVID-19 vaccines by the FDA, despite the pandemic being over?**
 - A. The high global death toll due to COVID-19
 - B. The laxity in regulations in India
 - C. The development of a credible regime of phased, clinical trials in India
 - D. The combined stages of testing allowed for vaccine makers
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements about the emergency use authorization (EUA) of vaccines is NOT true?**
 - A. EUA was adopted globally during the COVID-19 crisis to accelerate vaccine development.
 - B. EUA allows vaccine makers to combine multiple stages of testing.
 - C. India's regulatory system traditionally relies on EUA to evaluate new drug and vaccine candidates.
 - D. The FDA continues to authorize updated COVID-19 vaccines under EUA provisions.
4. **According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true about the new mRNA vaccine for COVID-19 developed by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals?**
 - A. The vaccine was cleared under the provisions of 'emergency use authorisation' in India.
 - B. The vaccine is believed to be particularly effective against the dominant Omicron variant.
 - C. Public interest in the new vaccine is high due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
 - D. The new vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, demonstrates that an Indian company has the ability to manufacture an mRNA vaccine.
5. **What is the tone of the given passage?**
 - A. Optimistic and Reassuring
 - B. Critical and Informative
 - C. Entertaining and Humorous
 - D. Impartial and Detached
6. **What is the main theme of the given passage?**
 - A. The dominance of mRNA vaccines in the global market
 - B. The end of the COVID-19 pandemic and public disinterest in vaccines
 - C. The challenges and nuances of the Emergency Use Authorisation regime in India
 - D. The success of Gennova Biopharmaceuticals and their new vaccine
7. Which of the following words is a synonym for "**Hawk-eyed**"?
 - A. Oblivious

- B. Myopic
C. Attentive
D. Indifferent
8. Which of the following words is an antonym for "Arbitrary"?
- A. Deliberate
B. Random
C. Unplanned
D. Accidental
9. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.
Her behavior was very CONSPICUOUS at the party.
- A. Invisible
B. Amicable
C. Altruistic
D. Peculiar
10. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
Jyoti was so tired / that she could not hardly / talk to the guests for / a few minutes.
- A. Jyoti was so tired
B. that she could not hardly
C. talk to the guests for
D. a few minutes
11. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Accommodate
B. Recieve
C. Conscientious
D. Exaggerate
12. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.
She said to her maid, "Clean the utensils properly."
- A. She ordered her maid to clean the utensils properly.
B. She commanded her maid that kindly clean the utensils properly.
C. She orders her maid to clean the utensils properly.
D. She commands her maid that clean the utensils properly.
13. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.
The story explores the conflicting range of human emotions.
- A. The conflicting range of human emotions had explored by the story.
B. The conflicting range of human emotions did explored by the story.
C. The conflicting range of human emotions is explored by the story.
D. The conflicting range of human emotions has explored by the story
14. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.
Vikash gave you the information?
- A. Was the information given to you by Vikash?

- B. Have the information been given to you?
C. Has the information given to you?
D. You have been given the information?
15. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.
She has been working in this company from five years.
- A. working at this company for five years
B. working with this company since five years
C. working in this company for five years
D. No substitution required
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has decided to incentivise them through a star-rating system, based on 'efficiency and timelines in grant of environmental clearance'
- Q. The highest rank will be given to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) which approves projects in the shortest period, has a high rate of clearance, ensures quick disposal of complaints, conducts minimum site visits and asks for fewer 'essential details'.
- R. While major projects such as highways are cleared by the Centre, the state authorities assess the environmental impact of proposed works pertaining to mining, industry, power plants and infrastructure development.
- S. In a move that could trigger a frantic race among the states at the cost of compromising on environmental protection,
- A. SPQR B. QRPS C. SQPR D. PRQS
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Apple growers are perturbed about a lacuna in a multilateral trade agreement. India and Afghanistan, along with six other countries, fall in the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA); hence, they do not impose duty on imports from each other.
- Q. Iran is not a signatory to this pact, but consignments of apples from that country are being routed through Afghanistan and then Pakistan, reaching India via the Attari-Wagah border. Iranian apples are also making their way into India through the sea route.
- R. The unregulated import of apples from Iran is causing heavy losses to orchardists in J&K and Himachal Pradesh.
- S. J&K is by far the biggest producer of apples in the country, followed by HP and Uttarakhand. The livelihoods of lakhs of people depend on the cultivation of this fruit.
- A. RSQP B. QPSR C. RSPQ D. SPRQ
18. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. India's forest cover is 7,13,789 sq km, or 21.71% of the geographical area, up from 21.67% in 2019. The states that have done particularly well in increasing the forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).
- Q. The 17th edition of the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) offers us some good news, but it also lays bare several areas of concern over India's natural ecosystem.

R. The report says that nearly a quarter of India is under green cover, with an addition of 2,261 sq km since the previous ISFR, released in 2019. India's forest and tree cover now stands at 80.9 million hectares, or 24.62% of the total geographical area, a rise of 0.3% since 2019.

S. The two-year increase in the forest cover aggregates to 1,540 sq km and that in the tree cover to 721 sq km.

A. RPQS B.QRSP C.RQPS D.SPRQ

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

P. The Centre has been prudent in not prolonging the row by restoring the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of the Missionaries of Charity.

Q. The new certificate, valid till the end of 2026, enables the Kolkata-based famed organisation to receive foreign funding and spend the money lying in the banks.

R. The rollback only fortifies the perception that the action against the Catholic religious congregation, established by Nobel laureate Mother Teresa to help the poor and destitute, was excessive and unjustified.

S. The outrage sparked by the surprise cancellation should serve as a reminder to not resort to hasty decisions without taking into account the gamut of ramifications.

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

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

P. The governments concerned expect that the project, which involves transferring water from the Ken river to the

Q. The project, which had been facing hindrances because the two state governments had been trying to find a consensus on sharing water from it, will cost Rs 44,605 crore, most of it in the form of a grant from the Centre.

R. The Ken-Betwa Link Project, which aims to join these two tributaries of the Yamuna river, has finally been cleared by the Union Cabinet, and the inhabitants of the water-scarce Bundelkhand region — spread over 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh — can hope to see greener pastures within 10 years.

S. Betwa river, would help irrigate 10.62 lakh hectares of land and provide drinking water to 62 lakh people, apart from generating 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power annually.

A. RQSP B.RQPS C.PSQR D.PRQS

Answers

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

Explanations

- B. It is the first mRNA vaccine developed by an Indian company, demonstrating the capability for rapid production and potential use against future viruses.**

The passage primarily points to the significance of the GEMCOVAC-OM vaccine as being an indication of an Indian company's ability to produce an mRNA vaccine. This technology is known for its potential for rapid production and adaptability, which could be beneficial against any future viruses. While the other options mention details that are accurate according to the passage, they don't focus on the primary significance of this development as highlighted in the passage.
- A. The high global death toll due to COVID-19**

The passage indicates that the FDA continues to authorise updated COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use provisions because, despite the pandemic officially being over, COVID-19 is still present and causing many deaths around the world. This suggests that the high global death toll due to COVID-19 is the primary reason for the continuation of 'emergency use authorizations (EUA)' by the FDA. The other options are not supported by the text, as they relate to the Indian context or the development and testing stages of vaccines, not the specific reason for the continuation of EUA by the FDA.
- C) the correct answer is C) India's regulatory system traditionally relies on EUA to evaluate new drug and vaccine candidates

A) True - The passage mentions that the basic framework of 'emergency use authorizations (EUA)' was adopted by regulators globally during the COVID-19 crisis.

B) True - The passage states that drug regulators globally allowed vaccine makers to combine multiple stages while evaluating efficacy under EUA.

C) False - According to the passage, unlike the U.S. FDA, India's regulatory system has been more focused on evaluating formulations that have been approved abroad and assessing their suitability to India, rather than evaluating novel drug and vaccine candidates. Therefore, it's not true that India's system traditionally relies on EUA for such evaluations.

D) True - The passage confirms that the FDA still authorises updated COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use provisions.
- C) According to the passage, the World Health Organization has officially declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, there is no longer an obsessive public interest in new variants or vaccines, making option C incorrect. Options A, B, and D are true as per the details provided in the passage.
- B. Critical and Informative**

The passage critically examines the state of the Emergency Use Authorisation regime in India and its impact on new drug and vaccine approvals, especially pertaining to COVID-19. It also

provides informative insight into the process of vaccine development, approval, and the current situation regarding COVID-19 vaccines in India. The tone is not optimistic, entertaining, or impartial, as the author expresses concerns and critiques the current system while also providing necessary information.

6. **C. The challenges and nuances of the Emergency Use Authorisation regime in India**

The main theme of the passage revolves around the Emergency Use Authorisation regime in India. While it mentions Gennova Biopharmaceuticals and their new vaccine, the dominant Omicron variant, the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the public's declining interest in

7. **C) Attentive**

Hawk-eyed (adjective) – Vigilant, watchful, alert, attentive, eagle-eyed चौकन्ना, पैना

The term "Hawk-eyed" is used in the passage to describe the suggested approach to safety and adverse reactions from new drugs and vaccines.

8. **A) Deliberate**

Arbitrary (adjective) – Random, capricious, discretionary, subjective, indiscriminate मनमाना

The term "arbitrary" in the passage refers to the problematic aspects of India's past approach to clinical trials. Arbitrary decisions are made without a particular system or deliberation, making "Deliberate", which implies careful consideration, the correct antonym.

9. **A) This question asks you to find the antonym of the underlined word "conspicuous," which means easily seen or noticeable. The most appropriate antonym among the given options would be "invisible," as it means not easily seen or not noticeable.**

10. **B) 'not' या 'hardly' में से किसी एक का ही प्रयोग कर वाक्य को Negative बनाया जाता है क्योंकि 'not' का अर्थ है 'नहीं' और 'hardly' का अर्थ है 'न के बराबर' जैसे-**

- i. He will not do it.
- ii. He will hardly do it.

(B) Using only one of 'not' or 'hardly' the sentence is made negative because 'not' means 'not' and 'hardly' means 'negligible' like-

- i. He will not do it.
- ii. He will hardly do it.

11. **B) In this question, the test-taker is asked to identify the word that is spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling of the word in option B is "Receive," so the answer is B.**

12. **A) She ordered her maid to clean the utensils properly.**

13. **C) The conflicting range of human emotions is explored by the story**

14. **A) Was the information given to you by Vikash?**

15. **C) In the given sentence, the underlined segment "working in this company from five years" is incorrect because "from" should be replaced with "for" to indicate the duration of her work in the company. Also, the correct preposition to use with "company" is "in". Therefore, option C) "working in this company for five years" is the most appropriate substitution.**

16. **A) SPQR**

S: Sentence S: "In a move that could trigger a frantic race among the states at the cost of compromising on environmental protection," This sentence seems to be a good start, as it introduces a significant action or development without referring to any prior context.

P: Sentence P: "the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has decided to incentivise them through a star-rating system, based on 'efficiency and timelines in grant of environmental clearance'" This sentence logically follows sentence S, explaining what the move mentioned in sentence S actually is

Q: Sentence Q: "The highest rank will be given to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) which approves projects in the shortest period, has a high rate of clearance, ensures quick disposal of complaints, conducts minimum site visits and asks for fewer 'essential details'." This sentence provides further details about the star-rating system introduced in sentence P.

R: Sentence R: "While major projects such as highways are cleared by the Centre, the state authorities assess the environmental impact of proposed works pertaining to mining, industry, power plants and infrastructure development." This sentence concludes the paragraph by describing the responsibilities of the SEIAA mentioned in sentence Q. It makes more sense here after we've established what the rating system is and how it will work.

17. C) **RSPQ**

R: Sentence R, "The unregulated import of apples from Iran is causing heavy losses to orchardists in J&K and Himachal Pradesh," presents a problem that sets the stage for the rest of the paragraph

S: Sentence S, "J&K is by far the biggest producer of apples in the country, followed by HP and Uttarakhand. The livelihoods of lakhs of people depend on the cultivation of this fruit," provides additional context about why this is a problem, namely because the region heavily relies on apple cultivation

P: Sentence P, "Apple growers are perturbed about a lacuna in a multilateral trade agreement. India and Afghanistan, along with six other countries, fall in the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA); hence, they do not impose duty on imports from each other," explains the cause of the problem, referring to a loophole in a trade agreement that allows duty-free import of apples from certain countries

Q: Finally, sentence Q, "Iran is not a signatory to this pact, but consignments of apples from that country are being routed through Afghanistan and then Pakistan, reaching India via the Attari-Wagah border. Iranian apples are also making their way into India through the sea route," details how the problem is being exploited, with Iran circumventing the trade agreement to export apples to India.

18. B) **QRSP**

Q: The 17th edition of the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) offers us some good news, but it also lays bare several areas of concern over India's natural ecosystem.

This is the most logical introductory statement as it sets the context by mentioning the ISFR

R: This follows Q, because it begins to provide some of the "good news" mentioned in Q, detailing the overall increase in forest and tree cover.

S: This follows R, as it provides a breakdown of the figures mentioned in R, specifying the increase in forest cover and tree cover separately

P: This comes last, as it gives more specific information on India's forest cover as a whole and identifies the states that have made particularly significant contributions to the increase in cover.

19. D) **PQSR**

P: The first sentence (P) sets the context, stating that the Centre has decided not to prolong a dispute by restoring the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of the Missionaries of Charity.

Q: The second sentence (Q) adds detail to this action, specifying that the new certificate allows the organisation to receive foreign funding and utilize the funds that are currently in the banks

S: The third sentence (S) provides an analysis or lesson learned from the situation - the outrage sparked by the surprise cancellation of the FCRA registration should prevent hasty decisions in the future.

R: Finally, the fourth sentence (R) gives a conclusion or an implication of the restoration of the FCRA - it reinforces the perception that the initial action against the Missionaries of Charity was excessive and unjustified.

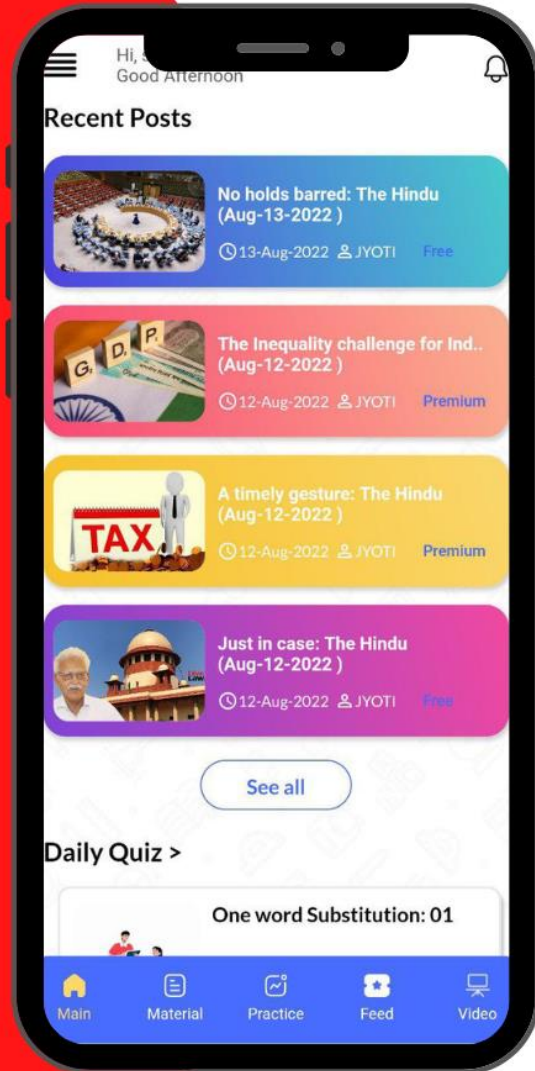
20. B) **RQPS**

R: This sentence introduces the Ken-Betwa Link Project, its aim, and its recent clearance by the Union Cabinet. It also mentions the beneficiaries of the project - the people of the Bundelkhand region

Q: This sentence follows well from R because it gives further information about the challenges faced in the execution of the project, its cost, and how it will be financed.

P: After providing background on the project, sentence P describes the specific expectations of the project, which includes transferring water between the two rivers, and the resultant benefits such as irrigation, drinking water, and power generation

S: Sentence S expands on the benefits outlined in sentence P, providing a natural conclusion to the paragraph by emphasizing the projected outcomes of the project.



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