

Strategic high: On India-U.S. ties and strategic cooperation

India and the U.S. have entered a new era of mutual trust and cooperation

The just **concluded state visit** of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States **is undoubtedly** a new **gambit** by both sides to **propel** their strategic cooperation to an **unprecedented** level, while turning treaty **allies**. The **announcement** for **potential** joint manufacture of General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F414 engines in India by GE and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to power India's **indigenous** Light Combat Aircraft MK2 and the twin-engine Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft MK1 as well as the **purchase** of 31 high-altitude, **long-endurance Predator-MQ-9B armed unmanned aerial vehicles** **take** the defence ties between the countries to a new high. Military **cooperation** between the two nations **has** been **deepening** in the recent past. India has bought from the U.S. the C-130 and C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft, AH-64E Apache attack helicopters as well as CH-47 Chinook and MH-60R multi-role helicopters, P-8I **maritime** patrol aircraft and M777 ultra light howitzers, among others. The U.S. has been aggressively **pitching** its fighter jets, the F-16 and F/A-18, for the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy. India and the U.S. had tried and **shelved** an earlier engine development effort under the **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative** some years ago. But now, the new jet engine deal is an investment in each other to **address** the shared security **concerns**, while continuing to **navigate** the **disagreements**.

Top among their shared concerns is China and its **expansion** in the **Indo-Pacific**. The U.S. also wants to **wean India away** from its defence partnership with Russia in the long term. From a technological **perspective**, the newly announced joint **initiatives** in jet engine production, semiconductors and space technology **present** an opportunity for India to develop a defence industry of its own, and improve its technological **competence across the board**. India and the U.S. have already signed the four foundational agreements and regularly conduct joint military exercises. While its **embrace** with the U.S. is getting stronger, deeper and more **comprehensive**, India is also **cognisant** of the need to maintain its **strategic autonomy**. **U.S. strategy** at the moment **is** focused on creating a new **bipolarity** in the world, which India is not comfortable with. **Getting caught** in the power **rivalries** of others **is** the last thing that India wants, and the good thing is that the U.S. is increasingly aware of that concern. India's **desire** to protect its borders and **sovereignty aligns** with U.S. interests. This is a new era of mutual trust between the two countries, and it should act as a force for stability in the region.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Strategic** (adjective) – relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage.
2. **Ties** (noun) – association, relationship, bond, connection. संबंध
3. **Era** (noun) – period, epoch, age, time. युग
4. **Undoubtedly** (phrase) – doubtlessly, certainly, definitely, undeniably निश्चित रूप से
5. **Mutual** (adjective) – reciprocal, joint, shared, common. पारस्परिक
6. **Cooperation** (noun) – collaboration, partnership, alliance, teamwork. सहयोग
7. **Concluded** (adjective) – completed, finished, accomplished, done. समाप्त, संपन्न
8. **State visit** (noun) – official visit, formal trip, diplomatic mission. राज्य यात्रा
9. **Gambit** (noun) – strategic move पहला कदम
10. **Propel** (verb) – drive, push, move forward, advance. आगे बढ़ाना
11. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – unparalleled, extraordinary, unheard-of, unique. अभूतपूर्व
12. **Ally** (noun) – partner, associate, confederate, supporter. मित्र
13. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, probable, likely, prospective. संभाव्य
14. **Indigenous** (adjective) – native, local, domestic, original. स्वदेशी
15. **Long-endurance** (adjective) – long-lasting, durable, persistent, enduring. लंबे समय तक चलने वाला
16. **Predator-MQ-9B** (noun) – a specific type of military drone.
17. **Armed** (adjective) – equipped with or carrying a firearm or firearms. हथियारबंद
18. **Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)** (noun) – drone: an aircraft that carries no human pilot or passengers
19. **Deepen** (verb) – grow, increase, strengthen. बढ़ना
20. **Maritime** (adjective) – of or related to the sea. समुद्री
21. **Pitch** (verb) – to try to persuade someone to buy your products or services or choose you to do some work for them
22. **Shelve** (verb) – postpone, put aside, defer. टालना
23. **Defence technology and Trade Initiative** (noun) – a major strategy to facilitate the development of defence technology by reducing bureaucratic processes and legal requirements in all possible ways.

24. **Address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, attend to, handle. सुलझाना, निपटाना
25. **Concern** (noun) – worry, anxiety, unease, apprehension. चिंता
26. **Navigate** (verb) – manage, negotiate, maneuver, guide. संचालित करना
27. **Disagreement** (noun) – difference of opinion, conflict, discord, controversy. मतभेद
28. **Expansion** (noun) – extension, growth, enlargement, increase. विस्तार
29. **Indo-pacific** (noun) – a biogeographic region of the Earth's seas, comprising the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean.
30. **Wean away** (phrasal verb) – detach, divert, steer away, disengage. हटाना
31. **Perspective** (noun) – viewpoint, outlook, standpoint, angle. परिप्रेक्ष्य
32. **Competence** (noun) – capability, ability, proficiency, skill. सामर्थ्य/ योग्यता
33. **Across the board** (phrase) – overall, comprehensive, complete, universal. सम्पूर्ण रूप से
34. **Embrace** (noun) – acceptance, collaboration, agreement, understanding. अपनाना, शामिल करना
35. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – thorough, complete, extensive, all-inclusive. व्यापक
36. **Cognisant** (of) (adjective) – aware, knowledgeable, mindful, conscious. जागरूक, जानकार
37. **Strategic autonomy** (noun) – the ability of a country to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without being constrained in any manner by other states.
38. **Bipolarity** (noun) – a system of global order in which two states have the majority of cultural, economic, and military influence.
39. **Rivalry** (noun) – competition, contest, struggle, conflict. प्रतिस्पर्धा
40. **Sovereignty** (noun) – authority, supremacy, dominance, control. सम्प्रभुता
41. **Align** (verb) – to say that you support the opinions of a particular group, country, etc किसी दल, देश आदि के विचारों का समर्थन करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. India and the U.S. are stepping into a new era of strategic cooperation marked by a mutual trust.
2. The recent state visit of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the U.S. symbolizes this intensified relationship.
3. A notable aspect of the visit was an agreement for a potential joint manufacture of General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F414 engines in India by GE and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
4. This agreement marks a significant increase in defense ties, with the engines set to power India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft MK2 and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft MK1.
5. India is also to purchase 31 high-altitude, long-endurance Predator-MQ-9B armed unmanned aerial vehicles from the U.S.
6. The strengthening of military cooperation is not new; India has previously acquired a range of defense equipment from the U.S., including transport aircraft, attack helicopters, patrol aircraft, and howitzers.
7. The U.S. has been actively advocating for its fighter jets, F-16 and F/A-18, for Indian military use.
8. China's expansion in the Indo-Pacific is a major shared concern for both countries.
9. The U.S. is also keen to divert India away from its long-standing defense partnership with Russia.
10. The joint initiatives announced in areas like jet engine production, semiconductors, and space technology present an opportunity for India to boost its own defense industry and technological competence.
11. The two nations have signed the four foundational agreements and regularly engage in joint military exercises.
12. While the India-U.S. partnership grows, India is careful to maintain its strategic autonomy.
13. The current U.S. strategy, which aims to create new bipolarity in the world, is something India isn't comfortable with.
14. India's aim to protect its borders and sovereignty aligns with the interests of the U.S., thus bolstering their cooperation.
15. This new era of mutual trust between India and the U.S. should contribute to regional stability.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary purpose of the joint manufacture of General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F414 engines in India by GE and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, as mentioned in the passage?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. To enhance India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft MK2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft MK1
 - B. To strengthen the defence ties between India and the U.S.
 - C. To replace the existing fighter jets of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy
 - D. To address the shared security concerns between India and the U.S.
2. **Which of the following statements is true based on the given passage?**
 - A. The state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States has resulted in a formal treaty alliance between India and the U.S.
 - B. The military cooperation between India and the U.S. has been limited to the purchase of transport aircraft and attack helicopters.
 - C. The potential joint manufacture of General Electric Aerospace's F414 engines in India is intended to power India's indigenous combat aircraft.
 - D. The U.S. has been promoting the sale of F-35 fighter jets to the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy.
3. **What is one of the shared concerns between India and the U.S. mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. Weaning India away from its defense partnership with China
 - B. India's desire to protect its borders and sovereignty
 - C. Creating a new bipolarity in the world
 - D. Developing a defense industry in China
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic and hopeful
 - B. Critical and skeptical
 - C. Neutral and informative
 - D. Pessimistic and cautionary
5. **Which statement is incorrect based on the given passage?**
 - A. The U.S. aims to wean India away from its defence partnership with Russia in the long term.
 - B. India and the U.S. have signed the four foundational agreements and regularly conduct joint military exercises.
 - C. India desires to protect its borders and sovereignty, which aligns with U.S. interests.
 - D. The U.S. strategy at the moment is focused on maintaining a unipolar world
6. **Which word in the passage is closest in meaning to "unprecedented"?**
 - A. ordinary
 - B. unparalleled
 - C. conventional
 - D. typical
7. **Which of the following words is an antonym for the word "propel" as used in the passage?**

- A. Advance
B. Launch
C. Retard
D. Progress
8. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
A. India's defense partnership with the United States
B. Technological competence and defense industry development in India
C. India's strategic autonomy and border protection
D. China's expansion in the Indo-Pacific and the need for stability
9. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
I did not wait for / him because / he went out before / I arrived.
A. I did not wait for
B. him because
C. he went out before
D. I arrived
10. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
The vibrant colors of the painting immediately caught my eye.
A. Dull
B. Vivacious
C. Luminous
D. Brilliant

Comprehension

The National Statistical Office's provisional estimates of national income for the 12 months ended March and quarterly GDP estimates for the fourth quarter ___1___ a picture of an economy that sustained momentum last year despite headwinds. Gross domestic product is estimated to have expanded by 6.1% in the January-March quarter, helping lift full-year growth to a marginally higher-than-projected 7.2% pace. Gross value added numbers for the fourth quarter point to a broad-based _____2_____ in growth from the preceding three months, with the umbrella utility services sector (including electricity, gas and water supply) and the ___3___ services category of trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting being the only two of the eight GVA sectors posting decelerations in expansion. While construction led the cross-sectoral growth, expanding 10.4%, collectively the services sectors buoyed GVA, with trade, hotels and transport still posting 9.1% growth, notwithstanding the slowdown from the third quarter's 9.6% pace. The sector, ___4___ has the largest share in GVA, expanded by a healthy 13.1% sequentially as travel demand rebounded in the wake of COVID-19 fears receding. Manufacturing was also a _____5_____, rebounding from the December quarter's contraction to log a 4.5% expansion.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- B. Posit
C. Contract
D. Underscore
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
A. Bulwark
B. Uptick
C. Outlook
D. Potential
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
A. Certainty
B. Footing
C. Big-ticket
D. Omnibus
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
A. Whose
B. Whom
C. Who
D. Which
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**
A. Under a cloud
B. Headwind
C. Silver lining
D. Promise
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The regulator, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), should dangle the stick of decisive action in case of failure to maintain standards in the over 6,500 affiliated private technical institutions.
Q. Colleges blame operational losses for their inability to provide infrastructure, procure equipment and pay the faculty salaries in the wake of some states putting a cap of Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000.
R. The proposed annual minimum fee of Rs 79,000 for undergraduate engineering disciplines, along with a marginal hike of the maximum fee at Rs 1.89 lakh, is aimed at addressing the financial concerns of institutions.
S. After a cap on the maximum fee that could be charged, the relief to the private technical institutes in the form of a minimum fee threshold likely to be put in place from the 2022-23 academic session needs to be conditional.
A. PSQR B.SRQP C.SQPR D.PRQS
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The court said the amendment enhanced transparency and accountability regarding acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution.
Q. The strict regime had become essential because of past experience of misutilisation of foreign funds and cancellation of certificates of as many as 19,000 registered NGOs for

failing to ensure basic statutory compliance such as submission of annual returns and maintenance of proper accounts. Till December 2021, there were reportedly 22,762 FCRA-registered organisations presumably compliant with the new dispensation.

- R. The verdict assumes significance in view of the fact that many recipients of foreign contribution didn't utilise the funds for the purpose for which they were registered or granted prior permission under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), even as the annual inflow of foreign contribution almost doubled between 2010 and 2019.
- S. The Supreme Court's verdict upholding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, has cleared the air on a controversial issue that largely affected voluntary organisations receiving foreign funding.

A. SRQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ

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

- P. Since the notification of the two previous lists, contracts worth Rs 54,000 crore have been signed for domestic procurement. Orders worth more than Rs 2,10,000 crore are likely to be placed with the industry in the next five years, showing, as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh put it, the fast pace of self-reliance in the defence sector.
- Q. In the past three years, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) — the first step towards buying military hardware under defence procurement rules — has been accorded for equipment worth Rs 2,47,515 crore from domestic makers.
- R. The new list of at least 100 weapons and systems that will face an import ban over the next five years comes on the back of two similar lists released in 2020 and 2021.
- S. Indicative in the announcement is the firm resolve to stay the course on indigenisation of the armament industry, and the growing confidence in the capability of domestic players to deliver as per international standards.

A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ

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

- P. The situation is no less dismal in the manufacturing sector. According to a study last year by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the number of employees in this sector dropped from 5.1 crore in 2016-17 to 2.73 crore in 2020-21 — a 46 per cent fall in just half a decade, mostly the pre-pandemic years.
- Q. The tourism sector has borne the brunt of Covid-19 over the past two years.
- R. Considering an average household size of five members, these job losses have adversely impacted over 10 crore people.
- S. The Centre told the Lok Sabha on Monday that about 2.15 crore people in this industry lost jobs due to the three waves of the pandemic, including 1.45 crore during the first wave that witnessed a nationwide lockdown.

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

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

- P. This do-or-die caveat assumes significance in the light of the near-certainty of the world veering towards disaster at the present rate of climate change mitigation efforts.
- Q. This caution must propel agencies worldwide to forcefully press all levers towards restricting global warming to 1.5°C.

- R. The next few years are critical for achieving this temperature threshold as the greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 43 per cent and methane cut by a third within this decade. It is critical for the containment of the catastrophic consequences of warming.
- S. Releasing the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on Tuesday, scientists have warned that all evidence points to a dire 'now or never' situation for planet earth.
- A. SPQR B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. **A) To enhance India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft MK2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft MK1.**

The passage mentions that the joint manufacture of General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F414 engines in India is aimed at powering India's indigenous aircraft models, the Light Combat Aircraft MK2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft MK1. This collaboration signifies an investment in each other to address shared security concerns and improve strategic cooperation. However, the primary purpose of this joint manufacture is focused on enhancing India's indigenous aircraft capabilities rather than strengthening defence ties, replacing existing fighter jets, or solely addressing shared security concerns.

2. **C) The potential joint manufacture of General Electric Aerospace's F414 engines in India is intended to power India's indigenous combat aircraft.**

The passage mentions the announcement for potential joint manufacture of F414 engines by General Electric (GE) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in India to power India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft MK2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft MK1. This indicates a strategic cooperation in the defense sector between India and the U.S., aiming to enhance India's indigenous combat aircraft capabilities.

3. **B) India's desire to protect its borders and sovereignty.**

The passage states that India's desire to protect its borders and sovereignty aligns with U.S. interests, indicating that this is one of the shared concerns between the two countries. The passage also mentions other points such as weaning India away from its defense partnership with Russia, creating a new bipolarity in the world (which India is not comfortable with), and developing a defense industry of its own (not in China) as opportunities for India. However, the specific shared concern mentioned is India's desire to protect its borders and sovereignty.

4. **A) The passage primarily discusses the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States and the strategic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the defense sector. The tone of the passage can be inferred as optimistic and hopeful. It emphasizes the deepening military cooperation, joint initiatives, and investments between India and the United States, while highlighting the shared security concerns and the opportunity for India to develop its defense industry. Therefore, the correct option is A) Optimistic and hopeful.**

5. **D) The U.S. strategy at the moment is focused on maintaining a unipolar world.**

The passage mentions that the U.S. strategy is focused on creating a new bipolarity in the world, which India is not comfortable with. This indicates that the U.S. is not seeking to maintain a unipolar world where it holds sole power. Instead, it aims to establish a balance of power with China in the Indo-Pacific region. Therefore, option d) is the incorrect statement based on the passage.

6. **B) unparalleled**

Unprecedented (adjective) – never done or known before. अभूतपूर्व

In the passage, the phrase "unprecedented level" indicates that the strategic cooperation between the United States and India is reaching a level that has not been seen before. The word "unprecedented" means "never done or known before" or "**unparalleled**." Therefore, the correct answer is B) unparalleled.

7. C) Retard

Propel (verb) – push, move forwards, push forwards, move आगे बढ़ाना

The word "**propel**" means to drive or push something forward. Thus, option C) Retard, which means to delay or hold back in terms of progress or development, is the correct antonym

8. A) The main theme of the passage revolves around the strategic cooperation between India and the United States, particularly in the defense sector. It highlights the joint initiatives, military cooperation, and shared security concerns between the two countries. While discussing India's desire to maintain its strategic autonomy and protect its borders, the passage also emphasizes the opportunity for India to develop its defense industry and improve technological competence. However, the primary focus is on the partnership between India and the United States and its implications for regional stability. Therefore, the correct option is A) India's defense partnership with the United States

9. (C) 'went out' के बदले 'had gone out' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'arrived' past की घटना है और 'he' के बाहर जाने की घटना 'past of the past' की है, अर्थात् 'I' के 'arrive' के पहले की है, और past of the past की घटना के लिए Past Perfect का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

i. The bell had rung before he reached the school.

- 'had gone out' will be used instead of 'went out' as 'arrived' is an event of the past and 'he' is an event of 'past of the past', i.e. before 'arrive' of 'I', and Past Perfect is used for the event of the past of past; As-

i. The bell had rung before he reached the school.

10. A) Dull

- **Vibrant** (adjective) – Lively, Bright, Colorful, Radiant, Dynamic जीवंत
- **Dull** (adjective) – Boring, Drab, Lifeless, Monotonous, Tedious नीरस
- **Vivacious** (adjective) – Energetic, Animated, Spirited, Exuberant, Lively फुर्तीला
- **Luminous** (adjective) – Radiant, Shining, Glowing, Bright, Dazzling चमकीला
- **Brilliant** (adjective) – Genius, Intelligent, Smart, Sparkling, Shining तेजोमय

11. B) **Posit** (verb) – Propose, suggest, put forward, present, submit प्रस्तावित करना

Posit". In this context, "**posit**" means to put forth or suggest. So, the National Statistical Office's estimates are putting forth or suggesting a picture of the economy. The verb "posit" is appropriate because it implies that these estimates are providing an assertion or proposition about the state of the economy.

- **Shrink** (verb) – Contract, reduce, diminish, lessen, decrease सिकुड़ना
 - **Contract** (verb) – Shrink, reduce, decrease, lessen, diminish कम होना
 - **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underline, stress, accentuate बल देना
12. **B) Uptick** (noun) – Increase, rise, boost, hike, surge इजाफा
An uptick refers to a small increase or slight upward trend, which is what the Gross Value Added numbers for the fourth quarter are pointing to according to the text.
- **Bulwark** (noun) – Protection, defense, shield, guard, safeguard सुरक्षा
 - **Outlook** (noun) – Perspective, viewpoint, point of view, view, forecast दृष्टिकोण
 - **Potential** (noun) – Possibility, potentiality, prospect, promise, capability संभावना
13. **D) Omnibus** (adjective) – comprising several items. सार्वत्रिक
In this context, the term "**omnibus**" is used to describe a category that encompasses multiple, related items. The services category being described includes trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting - all these are different but related sectors, and the term "omnibus" fits because it is used to describe something that covers or deals with many different things.
- **Certainty** (noun) – Sureness, assurance, confidence, conviction, positiveness निश्चितता
 - **Footing** (noun) – Foundation, basis, base, ground, standing आधार
 - **Big-ticket** (adjective) – Expensive, high-priced, high-cost, costly, premium महंगा
14. D) The "**which**" pronoun here is being used to give more information about this sector. The word "which" is used as a relative pronoun to refer to things, ideas, or situations in such cases.
15. **C) A silver lining** (noun) – Ray of hope, optimistic sign, promising aspect, positive side उम्मीद की किरण
The term "**silver lining**" refers to a hopeful or comforting prospect in the midst of difficulty. In this context, it refers to the fact that the manufacturing sector, despite previously contracting, has rebounded to show growth, which is a positive aspect amidst other challenges
16. **B) SRQP**
S: This sentence is a good opener. It sets the stage by providing an update on a recent policy development related to technical institutes. It gives a brief about the situation regarding the fee structure and how a new minimum fee threshold is being put in place.
R: Following up on the new minimum fee threshold, this sentence gives more specifics about what this new fee structure might look like. It fits well after the first sentence because it continues to build on the subject of the new fee policy.
Q: This sentence illustrates why these changes are being proposed in the first place by citing the challenges that colleges face under the old fee structure. Thus, it provides reasoning for the changes mentioned in sentences S and R
P: Finally, this sentence ties everything together by presenting a possible action from the

regulatory authority. This sentence suggests that institutions that don't meet standards should face consequences, which helps to address the issues brought up in sentences S, R, and Q.

17. D) **SPRQ**

S: This sentence sets the context of the paragraph by introducing the Supreme Court's verdict on a specific amendment act

P: This sentence naturally follows the previous one as it explains what the Supreme Court stated about the amendment act.

R: After explaining the Supreme Court's view, this sentence gives further context to why the verdict is significant, addressing problems with misuse of foreign funds.

Q: Finally, this sentence elaborates on the necessity of the strict regime brought by the amendment, citing past misutilisation of funds and lack of compliance. This wraps up the logical progression of the paragraph

18. B) **RSPQ**

R: Sentence R introduces the main subject of the paragraph, the banning of imports of certain weapons and systems, and the release of the lists.

S: Sentence S further elaborates on the implications of this decision, highlighting the move towards self-reliance and confidence in domestic capabilities.

P: Sentence P continues with the theme of indigenisation, providing data on contracts signed since the release of the two previous lists and projected orders for the next five years.

Q: Finally, Sentence Q provides further context and supporting data, discussing the Acceptance of Necessity and the monetary value of equipment sourced domestically in the past three years.

19. C) **QSRP**

Q: "The tourism sector has borne the brunt of Covid-19 over the past two years." This sentence serves as a good introduction as it sets the context of the impact of Covid-19 on a specific sector, which is tourism

S: This sentence logically follows Q because it provides specific details and statistics about the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism sector.

R: This sentence further elaborates on the impact of job losses in the tourism sector, broadening the perspective to the effects on households, so it follows S.

P: This sentence acts as a transition to introduce another sector (manufacturing), which has also been impacted severely. As such, it is best placed at the end.

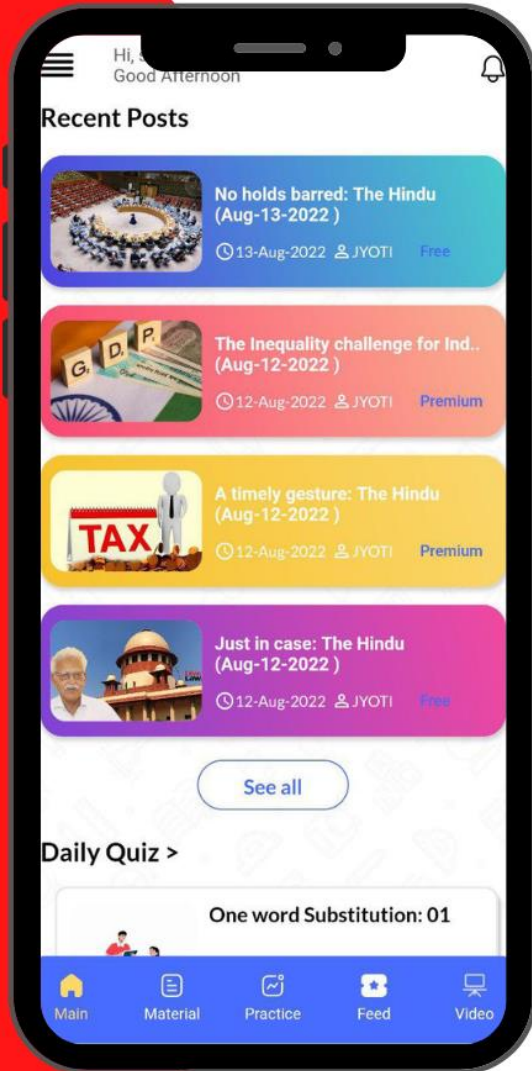
20. A) **SPQR**

S: This sentence introduces the topic at hand - a new report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its grim prognosis. It sets up the context and hence, is the opening sentence

P: After the first sentence, this sentence explains the urgency of the situation more precisely. The term "do-or-die caveat" refers back to the dire warning from the previous sentence, thereby making it a suitable follow-up.

Q: The term "This caution" in sentence Q relates to the aforementioned dire warning and its implications, explained in sentence P. Hence, it is best placed after sentence P

R: Finally, sentence R gives specific figures and details related to the temperature threshold and the actions needed. It is a natural continuation of sentence Q as it provides the specifics of what actions should be undertaken.



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