

A case for regulating Artificial Intelligence

There is an urgent need to **tap** the **potential** of AI for **accomplishing** national objectives and fulfilling the **aspirations** of Indian citizens

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new **buzzword** in the town and is making too much **flutter** and **scoop** around. AI and Machine Learning are being widely discussed and **claimed across the board** to **bring about** a revolution in the way things will be performed and looked at in future. AI has **revolutionised** the method of performing various tasks through its **algorithm**-based software and has made future **predictions** possible and accurate. With the use of AI, many tasks have become easier to perform with more **efficiency**. It is expected that the way AI is advancing it will develop various applications that will be able to do acts the doing of which seem humanly impossible at present.

Artificial intelligence is the creation of computer systems that can **carry out** tasks that traditionally require human **intellect**, including **perception**, speech **recognition**, decision-making, and language translation. Through AI, the goal is to develop intelligent machines that can think, **comprehend**, and act on their own, **modelling** some human actions.

The **invention** of AI applications and tools **has** made it possible to answer questions and write code and poems and books with human-like **sensitivity**. It is also expected that AI shall become an **indispensable** tool for carrying out **numerous** industrial activities. AI has developed and is in the process of developing such tools that will be **immensely** beneficial in business operations. **Against this backdrop**, it is not an **exaggeration** to say that the **manner** of growth and popularisation of AI **would** have made it seem like a one-stop solution for all human problems.

However, AI tools also have **limitations** and can generate **untruthful** and **toxic** comments and can spread **misinformation**, and **spam**, and can write **misleading** academic literature. At present, India does not have a law on AI. The government of India has already expressed its intention some time back that it is not considering any law to regulate AI. The government had **conveyed** its position that AI is useful for the digital and innovation **ecosystem**, but had **ethical** concerns and **associated** risks. Various government agencies have started efforts to **standardize** responsible AI development and are **drawing up** a **blueprint** for the development of AI for India.

Despite the position taken by the government, successful use of AI technology would require the **enactment** of **legislation** that will prevent the misuse of AI in situations that involve, loss to or, **infringement** of the rights of people. Such a law may permit only **authorized** persons to utilize the govt recognized AI Platforms, allow limited access to the usage of "Smart AI", and may have **penal provisions** to cover cases of **malicious** use of AI such as blackmailing, **morphing** and creating false evidence etc.

Moreover, such a law may require programmers to take reasonable care and caution while creating AI systems **in order to** prevent harm to AI users. Businesses using AI **ought to** alert end users against any **potential** danger and must attach strong technical **safeguards** and technological measures of

protection with every AI application to minimize their misuse. **Failure** in **complying with** such **stipulations** **must entail** legal **liability** for creators, intermediaries and commercial dealers.

There is a need to tap the potential of AI positively in order to use this technology for accomplishing national objectives and fulfilling the aspirations of Indian citizens. AI should be used to serve the interests of our created social institutions and economic, legal, and administrative **machinery**. There can be no doubt that AI has **enormous** potential to revolutionise many **facets** of society but to maximise its advantages and minimise its **downsides**, serious **deliberations** over ethical/legal **frameworks** should be **initiated**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Case** (verb) – Circumstance, situation, instance, event, occasion, स्थिति
2. **Regulate** (verb) – Control, manage, govern, direct, supervise, नियंत्रण करना
3. **Artificial Intelligence** (noun) – a field, which combines computer science and robust datasets, to enable problem-solving
4. **Tap** (verb) – Utilize, exploit, harness, use, employ, उपयोग करना
5. **Potential** (noun) – Capability, ability, competence क्षमता
6. **Accomplish** (verb) – Achieve, fulfill, complete, carry out, realize, पूरा करना
7. **Aspiration** (noun) – Ambition, hope, dream, desire, महत्वाकांक्षा
8. **Buzzword** (noun) – word that is very popular
9. **Flutter** (noun) – a short period of excited activity खलबली
10. **Scoop** (noun) – the latest information about something
11. **Claim** (verb) – Assert, say, declare, allege, aver, profess दावा करना
12. **Across the board** (phrase) – Universally, all-inclusively, comprehensively, समग्र रूप से
13. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, instigate, trigger, effect, घटित करना
14. **Revolutionise** (verb) – Transform, overhaul, restructure, क्रांति लाना
15. **Algorithm** (noun) – a process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer.
16. **Prediction** (noun) – Forecast, prophecy, prognostication, भविष्यवाणी
17. **Efficiency** (noun) – Effectiveness, productivity, competence, कार्यक्षमता
18. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – Execute, perform, accomplish, सम्पन्न करना
19. **Intellect** (noun) – Intelligence, brainpower, wit, बुद्धि
20. **Perception** (noun) – Understanding, interpretation, comprehension, समझ
21. **Recognition** (noun) – Identification, detection, differentiation पहचान
22. **Comprehend** (verb) – Understand, grasp, apprehend, समझना
23. **Model** (verb) – Represent, display, simulate, display, अनुकरण करना
24. **Sensitivity** (noun) – Responsiveness, susceptibility, awareness, संवेदनशीलता

25. **Indispensable** (adjective) – Essential, necessary, crucial, key, imperative
अनिवार्य
26. **Numerous** (adjective) – Many, a lot of, a great deal of, अनेक
27. **Immensely** (adverb) – Enormously, greatly, vastly, significantly, extensively,
बहुत अधिक
28. **Against this backdrop** (phrase) – In this context, considering this situation, in light of these circumstances, keeping this in view, इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में
29. **Exaggeration** (noun) – Overstatement, hyperbole, amplification, embellishment, बड़ा चढा कर कहना
30. **Limitation** (noun) – Restriction, constraint, restraint, barrier, सीमा
31. **Untruthful** (adjective) – Dishonest, deceitful, false, insincere, असत्य
32. **Toxic** (adjective) – Harmful, poisonous, dangerous, lethal, विषाक्त
33. **Misinformation** (noun) – Misguidance, false information, disinformation, misreport, भ्रामक जानकारी
34. **Spam** (noun) – Junk mail, unsolicited messages, unwanted email
35. **Misleading** (adjective) – Deceptive, false, inaccurate, untruthful, भ्रामक
36. **Convey** (verb) – Communicate, express, put across, बताना
37. **Ecosystem** (noun) – (in general use) a complex network or interconnected system. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
38. **Ethical** (adjective) – Moral, principled, virtuous, righteous, नैतिक
39. **Associated** (adjective) – Connected, related, linked, correlated, संबंधित
40. **Standardize** (verb) – cause (something) to conform to a standard. मानकीकरण करना
41. **Draw up** (phrasal verb) – Prepare, formulate, draft, compile, तैयार करना
42. **Blueprint** (noun) – Plan, design, model, scheme, योजना
43. **Enactment** (noun) – Implementation, execution, carrying out, कानून बनाना
44. **Legislation** (noun) – Law, rule, statute, bill, decree, कानून
45. **Infringement** (noun) – Breach, violation, transgression, contravention, उल्लंघन
46. **Authorized** (adjective) – Approved, sanctioned, accredited, official, अधिकृत
47. **Penal** (adjective) – Punitive, disciplinary, corrective, दंडात्मक

48. **Provision** (noun) – Provision, stipulation, condition, term, प्रावधान
49. **Malicious** (adjective) – Malevolent, malignant, harmful, spiteful, दुर्भावनापूर्ण
50. **Morph** (verb) – Transform, change, alter, convert, बदलना
51. **Moreover** (adverb) – Furthermore, additionally, in addition, besides, इसके अलावा
52. **In order to** (phrase) – With the aim to, With the purpose to, For the reason to, ताकि
53. **Ought to** (modal verb) – Should, Supposed to, Expected to, Bound to, होना चाहिए
54. **Potential** (adjective) – Possible, Likely, Probable, Prospective, संभावित
55. **Safeguard** (noun) – Protection, Security, Guard, Shield, Defence, सुरक्षा
56. **Comply** (with) (verb) – Obey, Follow, Conform to, Adhere to, Abide by, पालन करना
57. **Stipulation** (noun) – Condition, Requirement, Restriction, Rule, Term, शर्त, नियम
58. **Entail** (verb) – Involve, Require, Necessitate, Demand, Call for, शामिल करना
59. **Liability** (noun) – Responsibility, Duty, Obligation, Burden, Charge, दायित्व
60. **Machinery** (noun) – the organization or structure of something or for doing something. साधन, तन्त्र, यंत्रसमूह
61. **Enormous** (adjective) – Huge, Vast, Great, Massive, Immense, विशाल
62. **Facet** (noun) – Aspect, Angle, Element, Feature, Dimension, पहलू
63. **Downside** (noun) – Disadvantage, Drawback, negative aspect नकारात्मक पहलू
64. **Deliberation** (noun) – Consideration, Discussion, Contemplation, Reflection, Thinking, विचार-विमर्श
65. **Framework** (noun) – Structure, System, Organization, Scheme, Model, ढांचा
66. **Initiate** (verb) – Start, Begin, Commence, Launch, Set in motion, आरंभ करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. AI and Machine Learning are perceived as revolutionary technologies that can reshape the future by making tasks more efficient and accurate.
2. Artificial Intelligence involves computer systems performing tasks that traditionally require human intellect, including perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and language translation.
3. The aim of AI is to develop intelligent machines that can think, comprehend, and act independently, mimicking certain human actions.
4. AI has the potential to answer questions and write codes, poems, and books with human-like sensitivity, making it beneficial for various industrial activities.
5. There are concerns about AI's limitations, such as generating false information and spreading spam or misinformation.
6. Currently, India lacks a specific law on AI, though the government has expressed no plans to regulate AI due to its potential in the digital and innovation ecosystem.
7. Despite this stance, the editorial argues for legislation to prevent AI misuse, particularly in situations that could infringe on people's rights or cause harm.
8. Such a law might only permit authorized persons to use government-recognized AI platforms and limit access to "Smart AI" to prevent malicious use.
9. Programmers may be required to exercise caution when creating AI systems to minimize harm to users.
10. Businesses using AI could be required to warn users of potential dangers and implement technical safeguards to minimize misuse.
11. The editorial argues for legal liabilities for those who fail to comply with these proposed stipulations, including creators, intermediaries, and commercial dealers.
12. AI's potential needs to be positively utilized to achieve national objectives and fulfill the aspirations of Indian citizens.
13. The technology should be used to serve the interests of social institutions and economic, legal, and administrative machinery.
14. AI has vast potential to revolutionize many facets of society.
15. However, to maximize AI's benefits and minimize its downsides, serious deliberations over ethical and legal frameworks should be initiated.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the main concern expressed regarding the unregulated growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The potential for AI to revolutionize industrial activities
 - B. The lack of laws and regulations governing AI in India
 - C. The ability of AI to perform tasks that are currently impossible for humans
 - D. The development of AI applications and tools with human-like sensitivity
2. **Which statement from the passage best represents the idea that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is perceived as a solution to all human problems?**
 - A. "There is an urgent need to tap the potential of AI for accomplishing national objectives and fulfilling the aspirations of Indian citizens."
 - B. "AI and Machine Learning are being widely discussed and claimed across the board to bring about a revolution in the way things will be performed and looked at in the future."
 - C. "The invention of AI applications and tools has made it possible to answer questions and write code and poems and books with human-like sensitivity."
 - D. "AI has revolutionised the method of performing various tasks through its algorithm-based software and has made future predictions possible and accurate."
3. **What is the main argument presented in the passage regarding the regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?**
 - A. The government should enact legislation to prevent the misuse of AI and protect people's rights.
 - B. AI technology should be completely banned to avoid potential dangers and misuse.
 - C. AI programmers should be given complete freedom to create AI systems without any regulations.
 - D. Businesses should be solely responsible for preventing the misuse of AI technology.
4. **Which of the following statements regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) is NOT accurate according to the passage?**
 - A. AI has revolutionised the method of performing various tasks through its algorithm-based software and has made future predictions possible and accurate.
 - B. AI has become an indispensable tool for carrying out numerous industrial activities.
 - C. AI has developed tools that will be detrimental to business operations.
 - D. AI is the creation of computer systems that can carry out tasks that traditionally require human intellect
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Pessimistic
 - C. Concerned
 - D. Dismissive
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The intricacies of AI algorithms and Machine Learning
 - B. The need for legislation to regulate AI in India

- C. The potential of AI to write poems and books
D. The ethical concerns associated with AI
7. Which of the following words is a synonym for "**indispensable**" as used in the passage?
A. Unnecessary
B. Crucial
C. Optional
D. Redundant
8. Choose the best synonym for the word "**flutter**" as used in the passage.
A. Stagnation
B. Calm
C. Commotion
D. Peace
9. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. In the latest 'action' taken is the government order restricting treks above 15,000 feet from September 15.
Q. It has, not surprisingly, come in the wake of criticism over last week's death of a climber in Kinnaur and reports of four missing trekkers (later traced) in Kullu.
R. Even as the majestic mountains of Himachal Pradesh continue to draw both professional trekkers and tourists looking for a challenge or an adventure, incidents of fatal mishaps during trekking expeditions remain a bane.
S. Despite its stated intentions of putting in a regulatory framework and a system of warnings to curb such incidents, the state has had to mostly resort to knee-jerk reactions after precious lives are lost — which, sadly, are frequent occurrences in these tricky terrains.
A. RSQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ
10. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person who pretends to be what he is not
A. Imposter
B. Dissembler
C. Charlatan
D. Hypocrite
11. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The Biden administration's approval of a \$450-million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme for Pakistan heralds the resumption of major security assistance by Washington to Islamabad.
Q. Islamabad for not taking adequate action against the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network terror groups.
R. It was in 2018 that the then US President Donald Trump had suspended about \$2 billion in security aid to.
S. Calling Pakistan an important counterterrorism partner, the US State Department has said that the programme will 'sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet'.
A. PSQR B.PSRQ C.SQPR D.PRQS

12. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

Person who has the ability to speak two languages fluently

- A. Bilingual
- B. Polyglot
- C. Multilingual
- D. Linguist

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

- P. The move had drawn criticism, coming as it did just weeks after India declared that it was ready to feed the world amid a global food crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Q. The decisions to ban the export of broken rice and impose 20 per cent duty on the export of non-basmati rice are being seen as attempts to maintain a similar balance between domestic requirement and export market.
- R. Then, as now, food security and national interest scored over international considerations.
- S. In response to the rising global commodity prices and extreme heatwaves affecting production, the Centre had earlier this year restricted wheat exports to protect India's food supplies.

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

14. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect/direct speech.

The sage said, "Man proposes and God disposes."

- A. The sage said that man proposes and God disposes.
- B. The sage said that man propose and God dispose.
- C. The sage said that man proposed and God disposed.
- D. The sage said that man had proposed and God had disposed.

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

- P. THE completion of disengagement by Indian and Chinese troops from Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15) in the Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh in a 'phased and coordinated' manner and a joint verification of the process by both armies have raised hopes of an end to the prolonged standoff in the region.
- Q. India's insistence on a sustained dialogue to thrash out issues and settle differences has borne fruit.
- R. The naysayers had said that the discussions on friction points were heading nowhere, but recent developments have proved them wrong.
- S. The withdrawal of soldiers and dismantling of temporary infrastructure have taken place less than two months after the two sides took part in the 16th round of high-level military talks.

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

16. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.

- A. Predicament
- B. Obnoxious
- C. Repugnant
- D. Repelent

Comprehension

The crash involving the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, the SMVT Bengaluru-Howrah Express and a goods train near Balasore in Odisha Friday, _____1_____ one of the worst train accidents in recent times. The death count, at 275, and the number of injured at over 1,000, 500 of them being treated at various hospitals, _____2_____ how so many lives have been changed for ever, the tragedy's _____3_____ sense of grief and loss. What's shone in this dark has been the speed and scale of the search and rescue operation: The institutional response, which involved personnel from the NDRF, the Army, IAF, fire services, ODRAF as well as local volunteers, all working round the clock to help pick up the pieces and to get operations back on track. What next is critical — and should be closely watched. How will responsibility be fixed, will this tragedy prompt structural changes, if needed, and, most significantly, what will be the learnings from this? Of late, the Indian Railways has seen a visible improvement on various parameters. For 2023-24, its capital outlay was _____4_____ at a staggering Rs 2.4 lakh crore. It has also undergone a massive electrification drive in recent years, with around 90 per cent of its route being electrified.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Are
- B. Were
- C. Was
- D. Is

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

- A. Impair
- B. Expedite
- C. Underline
- D. Endorse

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

- A. Consequential
- B. Casual
- C. Colossal
- D. Abysmal

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

- A. Pegged
- B. Buffered
- C. Suffice
- D. Aided

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) The lack of laws and regulations governing AI in India.**

The passage mentions that at present, India does not have a law on AI and that the government has expressed its intention not to regulate AI. It further states that while AI has potential benefits, there are ethical concerns and associated risks. Therefore, the main concern expressed in the passage is the need for regulating AI due to the lack of laws and regulations governing its development and use.

2. C) "The invention of AI applications and tools has made it possible to answer questions and write code and poems and books with human-like sensitivity." This statement suggests that AI has the capability to perform tasks that were traditionally considered only possible by humans, indicating the perception that AI can provide solutions to a wide range of human problems.

3. **A) The government should enact legislation to prevent the misuse of AI and protect people's rights.**

In the passage, it is stated that successful use of AI technology would require the enactment of legislation to prevent the misuse of AI in situations that involve the loss or infringement of people's rights. The passage suggests that such legislation may include provisions to allow authorized persons to use government-recognized AI platforms, limited access to "Smart AI," and penal provisions for malicious use of AI. It also mentions that programmers should take reasonable care to prevent harm to AI users, and businesses should alert end users against potential dangers and attach technical safeguards to minimize misuse. The passage emphasizes the need for serious deliberations over ethical/legal frameworks to maximize the advantages and minimize the downsides of AI.

4. C) AI has developed tools that will be detrimental to business operations. According to the passage, AI is beneficial to business operations, not detrimental. The passage mentions, "AI has developed and is in the process of developing such tools that will be immensely beneficial in business operations." Hence, statement C is incorrect according to the passage. The rest of the statements are correct as per the passage.

5. C) **Concerned**

The tone of the passage is concerned. This is evident as the author acknowledges the potential of AI in revolutionizing various aspects of life and industry, but they also express significant concerns about its misuse and potential dangers, as well as ethical and legal issues. They are particularly concerned about the absence of a law regulating AI in India, the potential for AI to spread misinformation or be misused in harmful ways, and the need for businesses to take precautions to prevent harm. Their concern is also evident in their call for serious deliberations over ethical/legal frameworks for AI.

6. **B) The need for legislation to regulate AI in India**

While the passage does touch on other topics such as the potential of AI, the benefits and limitations of AI, and the ethical concerns surrounding AI, the overarching theme that ties everything together is the need for legislation to regulate AI in India. The author consistently returns to this topic, detailing why such legislation is necessary, what it might look like, and how it would protect users and prevent the misuse of AI.

7. B) **Crucial**

Indispensable (adjective) – Crucial, essential, vital, necessary, requisite, central, key, required
महत्वपूर्ण/ अपरिहार्य

In the context of the passage, "indispensable" refers to something that is absolutely necessary or essential. Hence, "crucial", which also means of great importance, is the synonym for "indispensable".

8. C) **Commotion**

In the context of the passage, "flutter" is used to indicate a state of disturbance or excitement. Thus, "commotion" is the best synonym for the term "flutter" as it also means a state of confusion or disturbance.

9. C) **RSPQ**

R: Sentence R sets the context for the situation by introducing the problem of fatal mishaps during trekking expeditions in the mountains of Himachal Pradesh

S: Sentence S builds upon this problem by discussing the state's attempts and failures to establish a regulatory framework to prevent such accidents. Here we have a Noun-Pronoun relationship, "the state" mentioned in sentence S refers back to "Himachal Pradesh" in sentence R.

P: Sentence P then continues by giving a specific example of one of these knee-jerk reactions mentioned in sentence S — the government's order restricting treks above 15,000 feet from September 15. It is a continuation of the actions of "the state" which is another Noun-Pronoun relationship. The time sequence also fits here as it is following the previously discussed reactions of the state.

Q: Finally, Sentence Q logically follows P, as it explains why this action was taken — the recent death of a climber and the reports of missing trekkers. The phrase "not surprisingly" connects this sentence back to the previous sentences by implying that the action is a predictable reaction to the incidents.

10. A) **Imposter** – a person who pretends to be what he is not धोखेबाज

- **Dissembler** – a person who hides their true motives or feelings by presenting a false appearance or pretending to be someone or something they are not.
- **Charlatan** – a person who falsely claims to have special knowledge or skill in a particular field, especially in medicine or the arts, with the intention of deceiving or defrauding others. मायावी
- **Hypocrite** – someone who claims to be virtuous or honest while engaging in unethical or dishonest behavior. पाखंडी

11. B) **PSRQ**

P: Sentence P starts with "The Biden administration's approval... for Pakistan...", which introduces a topic

S: Sentence S starts with "Calling Pakistan an important counterterrorism partner...". It uses the pronoun "its" to refer back to "Pakistan" which is introduced in sentence P

R: Sentence R starts with "It was in 2018 that the then US President Donald Trump had suspended...". This sentence refers to a past event, indicating a time sequence that happened before the present events in sentences P and S

Q: Sentence Q is more of a justification for the actions stated in Sentence R. It provides a reason for the suspension of the aid in 2018. Hence, it should come after R.

12. A) **Bilingual** – a person who has the ability to speak two languages fluently द्वैभाषिक

Polyglot – a person who knows and can use several languages बहुभाषी

Multilingual – the ability to use or communicate in multiple languages बहुभाषीय

Linguist – a person who studies or specializes in the study of languages, their structure, and their history. भाषा-वैज्ञानिक

13. D) **SPRQ**

S: Sentence S sets the context for the entire paragraph by introducing the situation - the rising global commodity prices and extreme heatwaves affecting production, leading the Centre to restrict wheat exports to protect India's food supplies.

P: Next, sentence P is suitable since it continues from S by elaborating on a subsequent decision - drawing criticism for this move just weeks after India had declared its readiness to support the world in the midst of a global food crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

R: Sentence R then fits as it provides a further explanation for the actions described in S and P. The word "**Then, as now,**" refers back to the actions and reactions described in sentences S and P, and explains the motivation behind these decisions - food security and national interest being prioritized over international considerations.

Q: Finally, sentence Q is a perfect conclusion as it further illustrates the decisions mentioned in the earlier sentences - the bans on the export of certain food items and the implementation of a duty, which are seen as attempts to balance domestic and export markets.

14. A) The sage said that man proposes and God disposes.

15. B) **PSRQ**

P: Paragraph P introduces the context of the disengagement of Indian and Chinese troops from Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15).

S: Paragraph S comes next because it provides further details about the disengagement process mentioned in paragraph P, referring to the withdrawal of soldiers and dismantling of infrastructure. It also makes use of a Time Sequence Indicating Word, "**less than two months after the two sides took part in the 16th round of high-level military talks.**"

R: Paragraph R logically follows S, as it refers to the "**recent developments**" (the withdrawal of

soldiers and dismantling of infrastructure mentioned in S) proving the naysayers wrong.

Q: Finally, paragraph Q wraps up the sequence by reflecting on the successful outcome of the dialogue between India and China, relating back to the main theme initiated in P.

16. D) In this question, the test-taker is asked to identify the word that is spelled incorrectly.

"**Repelent**" is the incorrectly spelt word. The correct spelling of this word is "Repellent – घृणास्पद".

17. D) The sentence is referring to the train crash in the present context, describing it as one of the worst accidents in recent times. Therefore, the verb should be in the present tense. The verb 'is' connects the subject 'The crash'.

A. '**Are**' - This is a plural verb form and cannot be used because 'The crash' is a singular subject.

B. '**Were**' - This is a past tense verb form and should not be used because the sentence is describing the crash in the present context.

C. '**Was**' - This is also a past tense verb form and should not be used because the sentence is describing the crash in the present context.

18. C) **Underline** (verb) – Underscore, emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, जोर देना

"Underline". In this context, "underline" means to emphasize or make evident. The scale of the accident (the death and injury counts) underlines the magnitude of how many lives have been changed forever.

- **Impair** (verb) – Damage, harm, hurt, weaken, नुकसान पहुंचाना
- **Expedite** (verb) – Hasten, speed up, accelerate, quicken जल्दी करना
- **Endorse** (verb) – support, approve, sanction, back, ratify समर्थन करना

19. C) **Colossal** (adjective) – Enormous, gigantic, huge, vast, immense, विशाल

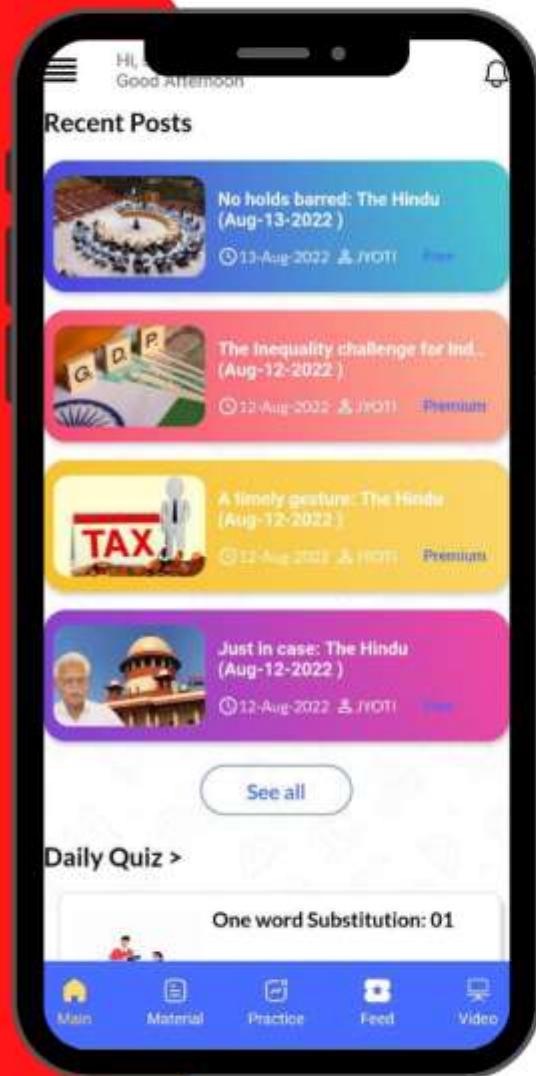
"Colossal". The word "colossal" means extremely large or great. Here, it is used to emphasize the tremendous grief and loss caused by the accident. Options A, B, and D do not convey the correct sense.

- **Consequential** (adjective) – Important, significant, meaningful, परिणामस्वरूप
- **Abysmal** (adjective) – Terrible, dreadful, awful, appalling, अत्यंत खराब
- **Casual** (adjective) – Nonchalant, unconcerned, offhand, uninterested, indifferent उदासीन

20. A) **Peg** (verb) – Fix, set, establish, निर्धारित करना

"Pegged". The verb "pegged" in this context means that the capital outlay for the Indian Railways was set or fixed at a particular level. Options B, C, and D do not fit within the context.

- **Buffer** (verb) – Protect, shield, safeguard, defend सुरक्षित करना
- **Suffice** (verb) – Satisfy, meet requirements, be enough, fulfill पर्याप्त होना
- **Aid** (verb) – Help, assist, support, facilitate सहायता करना



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