Express View on Yamuna status report: River abandoned

In January, the **National Green Tribunal** (NGT) **constituted** a panel **headed** by Delhi's lieutenant governor to find ways to **rejuvenate** the Yamuna in the capital. Six months later, **a status report** submitted by the Delhi government **shows** that there's **scarcely** any reduction in the river's pollution levels. It lists a **litany** of problems that have been known for long: The city's **sewage treatment plants** do not operate to their full capacity and untreated or partially treated sewage flows into the river. **A large number** of localities, **inhabited** by the poor, **are** not covered by the network of pipes that take sewage to treatment plants. **As a result**, the **water** of the river in most of its **stretch** in the capital **is** not fit for bathing quality. The six-month **deadline** set by the NGT to **resolve** these problems **was** **perhaps** unrealistic. But in the past two **decades**, **goalposts** on Yamuna cleaning have been shifted several times. The Delhi government must **get its act together.**

The status report **points to** an "extension of the **sewerage** network to a few more unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters". However, **the fact** that 245 million gallons of sewage **is** left untreated every day shows that this extension has not made much difference to the Yamuna's pollution levels — **by all accounts**, about 250 MGD was dumped in the river before the NGT's **intervention**. An **interceptor drain project initiated** more than 15 years ago **has** missed several deadlines. The idea behind the project was that, instead of **laying** a massive network of new lines, interceptor sewers would be laid to **trap** the sewage from Delhi's three large drains that carry most of the city's **filth** and **dump** it into the Yamuna. However, since the project was **conceived**, the **number** of colonies outside the city's sewerage network **has** increased. It seems that the interceptor drain project did not plan for the impact Delhi's growing population would have on the capital's **waste disposal system**. The trouble also is that the different **authorities** in the city — the DDA, the municipal corporation, and the pollution control agencies — rarely **work in sync**. And, the Yamuna cleaning work is among the several **casualties** of the constant **confrontation** between the Delhi government and the city's LG.

The Delhi **stretch** is only 2 per cent of the river's length. But more than 70 per cent of the Yamuna's pollution burden originates in the capital. **Restoring** the river in Delhi is, therefore, **critical** for its health. The NGT has asked the Delhi government to submit another report by September. The solutions have been known for long now. **It's high time** they are implemented.

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

Vocabulary

1. **Abandon** (adjective) – having been deserted or left छोड़ा हुआ

2. **National Green Tribunal** (NGT) (noun) – It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues

3. **Constitute** (verb) – comprise, form, compose, represent, make up बनाना

4. **Head** (verb) – lead, preside over, be in charge of, command नेतृत्व करना

5. **Rejuvenate** (verb) – renew, revitalize, refresh, regenerate नवीनीकरण करना

6. **Scarcely** (adverb) – hardly, barely, just, only just मुश्किल से

7. **Litany** (noun) – a long list of unpleasant things, especially things that are repeated: बहुत सारी समस्याओं की सूची

8. **Sewage treatment plant** (noun) – A facility designed to receive the waste from domestic, commercial and industrial sources and to remove materials that damage water quality and compromise public health and safety when discharged into water receiving systems.

9. **Inhabit** (verb) – live in, reside in, occupy, populate निवास करना

10. **As a result** (phrase) – Because of something नतीजतन

11. **Stretch** (noun) – a continuous area or expanse of land or water. क्षेत्र, इलाका

12. **Deadline** (noun) – time limit, limit, due date, cut-off अंतिम समय सीमा

13. **Resolve** (verb) – solve, settle, sort out, work out समाधान करना

14. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, possibly, potentially शायद

15. **Decade** (noun) – a period of ten years दशक

16. **Goalpost** (noun) – A changing or shifting goal or target. लक्ष्य स्थल

17. **Get one's act together** (phrase) – to start to organize yourself so that you do things in an effective way

18. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, hint at, signify इशारा करना

19. **Sewerage** (noun) – the system of drains and pipes that take sewage away from property.

20. **By all accounts** (phrase) – according to what everyone says लोगों के अनुसार

21. **Intervention** (noun) – involvement, intercession, mediation हस्तक्षेप

22. **Interceptor sewer** (noun) – Interceptor Sewer means a sewer whose primary

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purpose is to transport wastewater from collection sewers to a treatment facility.

23. **Initiate** (verb) – start, begin, embark on आरंभ करना

24. **Lay** (verb) – put down and set in position for use. बिछाना

25. **Trap** (verb) – catch, ensnare, snare जाल में फँसाना

26. **Filth** (noun) – dirt, muck, grime गंदगी

27. **Dump** (verb) – discard, dispose of, get rid of फेंक देना

28. **Conceived** (adjective) – thought of, envisaged, visualized कल्पना की गई

29. **Waste disposal system** (noun) – a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or

other wastes and includes sewage systems and treatment works

30. **In sync** (phrase) – working well together; in agreement साथ मिलकर

31. **Casualty** (noun) – victim, sufferer, fatality हानि/ हताहत

32. **Confrontation** (noun) – conflict, dispute, contention, altercation, row टकराव

33. **Restore** (verb) – bring back, reinstate, reintroduce पुनर्स्थापित करना

34. **Critical** (adjective) – crucial, vital, essential महत्वपूर्ण

35. **It's high time** (phrase) – it is the appropriate time यह उचित समय है

Summary of the Editorial

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) established a panel in January to devise ways to rejuvenate the Yamuna river in Delhi.
2. Six months later, a status report by the Delhi government indicates minimal reduction in pollution levels in the river.
3. The report cites issues such as under-utilized sewage treatment plants and untreated or partially treated sewage flowing into the river.
4. Many low-income neighborhoods lack access to sewage treatment plant networks, contributing to the pollution.
5. The NGT's six-month deadline to solve these problems may have been too ambitious, given the complexity and longstanding nature of the issues.
6. The Delhi government needs to take more effective action, as the Yamuna cleaning targets have been moved several times over the past two decades.
7. Despite the extension of the sewage network to some unauthorized colonies and slums, around 245 million gallons of sewage remain untreated daily.
8. A project to build an interceptor drain, started over 15 years ago, has continually missed deadlines.
9. This project aimed to trap sewage from Delhi's three largest drains, preventing it from reaching the Yamuna, but has failed to account for population growth and increased waste.
10. Coordination issues between various authorities, such as the DDA, municipal corporation, and pollution control agencies, have also hampered efforts.
11. More than 70% of the Yamuna's pollution comes from Delhi, despite the city accounting for only 2% of the river's length.
12. Restoring the river's health in Delhi is, therefore, critical for the overall health of the Yamuna.
13. The NGT has asked the Delhi government to submit another report by September.
14. The solutions to these issues have been known for a long time, emphasizing the need for urgent action.
15. It's crucial that these known solutions are implemented promptly and effectively to improve the river's health.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements best represents the main problem identified in the Delhi government's status report on the Yamuna river?**   **[Editorial Page]**
   A. The National Green Tribunal is not doing its job in overseeing river cleanup.
   B. The poor population is primarily responsible for the river's pollution.
   C. The city's sewage treatment plants do not operate at full capacity, and untreated or partially treated sewage ends up in the river.
   D. The six-month deadline set by the NGT was unrealistic and led to an ineffective report.

2. **Based on the passage, what is the primary expectation from the Delhi government regarding the Yamuna river?**
   A. To continue the deadline for cleaning the Yamuna.
   B. To shift the goalposts on Yamuna cleaning few times.
   C. To ensure the river water is fit for bathing.
   D. To take more effective action in reducing pollution levels in the Yamuna.

3. **What was the key objective behind initiating the interceptor drain project as described in the passage?**
   A. To trap sewage from Delhi's three large drains and prevent it from being dumped into the Yamuna river.
   B. To stop the pollution caused by the NGT's intervention in the city's sewage system.
   C. To improve the overall sewerage network of authorised colonies and JJ clusters.
   D. To lay a massive network of new lines for the city's waste disposal system.

4. **What is one of the primary challenges mentioned in the passage that is affecting the effectiveness of the Yamuna cleaning work?**
   A. The inconsistent increase in the number of colonies outside the city's sewerage network.
   B. The NGT's nonintervention in the sewerage extension work.
   C. The constant confrontation between the Delhi government and the city's LG.
   D. The treated 245 million gallons of sewage from the city's large drains.

5. Identify whether the given statements are true or false based on below passage
   A. The idea behind the project was that, instead of laying a massive network of new lines, interceptor sewers would be laid to trap the sewage from Delhi's three large drains that carry most of the city's filth and dump it into the Yamuna.
   B. The city's sewage treatment plants do not operate to their full capacity and untreated or partially treated sewage flows into the river.
   A. A is true and B is false.
   B. A is false and B is true.
   C. Neither A nor B is true.
   D. Both A and B are true.

6. "As a result, the water of the river in most of its **stretch** in the capital is not fit for bathing quality" Here, '**stretch**' means all of the following EXCEPT:

   A. The span of the river flowing through the capital.

   B. The duration of a certain task.

   C. The extent of the river affected by pollution.

   D. A specific portion of the river's course.

7. **What tone does the author of the passage primarily use?**

   A. Humorous

   B. Nostalgic

   C. Neutral

   D. Critical

8. What is the main theme of the passage?

   A. The population growth in Delhi

   B. The significance of the Yamuna River in Indian culture

   C. The failure of the authorities in controlling the pollution of the Yamuna River

   D. The health risks associated with polluted rivers

9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

   It would stop releasing merit lists for /the Class X and XII exam results/ the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that/ in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students,/

   A. In order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that it would stop releasing merit lists for the Class X and XII exam results.

   B. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students, it would stop releasing merit lists for the Class X and XII exam results.

   C. It would stop releasing merit lists for the Class X and XII exam results the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students,.

   D. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that the Class X and XII exam results it would stop releasing merit lists for in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students,.

10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom

   New York **rolled out the red carpet** for the astronauts

   A. To use your position or influence unfairly to get what you want

   B. To make an unsatisfactory situation as pleasant as possible

   C. To happen very soon afterward

   D. To welcome someone as a very important person or guest

11. **Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (1 and 2) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**

1. **India continues to be the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, thanks to increased consumption and resurgence of domestic demand.**
   A. Although the Russia-Ukraine war has caused supply chain disruptions over the past six months,
   B. Indian economy was expected to grow at a higher rate in view of last year's low base
   C. The April-June period this year was least impacted by the Covid pandemic, in stark contrast to the corresponding quarter of 2021 when the Delta wave had wreaked havoc across the country.
   D. However, the sobering fact is that this growth rate is lower than the RBI's estimate of 16.2 per cent.
2. **The below-par performance can be partly attributed to the inadequate contribution made by the manufacturing sector, even as the services sector is showing better recovery.**
   A. ABCD   B. DCBA   C. DCAB   D.CDAB

12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
    P. The National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) manages to create a buzz in the media; and the ranks of some of these higher education institutions often spring a surprise.
    Q. For some, the rankings are at best indicative of an institute's response to the NIRF's questionnaire.
    R. The zeal to tick the right boxes can give results that do not conform to the ground reality, raising questions about the fairness and reliability of the assessment parameters.
    S. While it is laudable that the government is promoting a benchmark mostly based on objective indicators, it is a matter of concern that this does not serve the purpose of improving the standards of learning.
    A. PSQR   B.PSRQ   C.SQPR   D.PRQS

13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
    P. While Bathinda is known to get inundated after a few spells of rain, Abohar gets flooded with sewage as the drains are clogged.
    Q. Waterlogging after a spell of incessant rain is invariably followed by power cuts.
    R. Muktsar faces waterlogging (sem) during the rainy season. Frequent breaches in canals and distributaries into which most drains flow, also lead to accumulation of water in the area.
    S. The need for constant upgrade of urban infrastructure and extension of its coverage to smaller towns and cities is borne out by the accumulation of rainwater in Punjab's Malwa region and adjoining Sriganganagar in Rajasthan where the Army had to be called in to drain off rainwater. Cities in Malwa have long grappled with the problem.
    A. RPQS   B.RSPQ   C.SRQP   D.SPRQ

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

P. Certain sectors, particularly the ones connecting metros, could see surge pricing in a bid to make up for the Covid-induced losses. The full impact — positive, negative or a mix of both — is set to play out during the upcoming festival season.

Q. The removal of the fare caps from August 31, that frees domestic airlines from the specified minimum and maximum airfare bands set during the pandemic more than two years ago, provides a competitive thrust to the aviation sector as new players enter the arena.

R. While conventional wisdom would have airlines offering sizeable discounts to attract more passengers on low-demand routes and new destinations, only a marginal fluctuation is expected, given the current fuel situation.

S. For the customers, already burdened with high fares attributed to the increase in aviation fuel cost and a weak rupee, ticket pricing based on market forces and demand-supply dynamics seems a mixed bag, for now.

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

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

P. Highlighting the role of forests in enabling citizens to 'enjoy their right to live in a pollution-free environment', the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that a state government could not permit 'non-forest activities' without the Centre's prior approval on plots that were declared 'forest land' under the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Q. The same day, the Ministry of Environment and Forests told the Rajya Sabha that the Gujarat Government, in accordance with legal provisions, had regularised 11 encroachments made by industries and institutions on forest land.

R. The stark contrast between the apex court's firm stand and the tendency of governments to work at cross purposes sums up the state of affairs.

S. The ministry also stated that it had written to states and UTs to remove encroachments according to the existing laws and ensure that no further ones took place on forest land.

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

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

P. Spot checks revealed airlines not properly identifying causes of reported defects, and not placing qualified engineers at all airports.

Q. The 10-day compliance deadline set by the aviation watchdog sends a strong message to the Indian airlines to fall in line and plug the safety risks.

R. The order to ramp up security oversight comes after stock-taking by the Minister of Civil Aviation and his one-on-one meetings with chiefs of carriers, where it was emphasised that the safety of passengers was of paramount importance and there could be no compromise on it.

S. The slew of instructions issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation follows surprise inspections in the wake of multiple mid-air engineering-related scares.

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

Comprehension

Four years ago, Boris Johnson won an election for the Tories with an 80-seat majority, their biggest victory since 1987. But his fall from grace has been so _____1_____ that he is not even an MP today. The Conservative leader, who quit as British Prime Minister in July last year amid an inner-party _____2_____, announced his resignation as a lawmaker last week after a House committee probing the 'Partygate' scandal found that he had misled Parliament. Mr. Johnson, when Prime Minister, had attended a host of parties during the COVID-19 lockdown, breaking the rules imposed _____3_____ the public by his own government; he then told the House of Commons that "all guidance was followed completely in No 10 (Downing Street)". Last year, a report by Sue Gray, a senior civil servant, _____4_____ offered details of the social events he had attended during the lockdown.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
    A. Appreciable
    B. Adverse
    C. Steep
    D. Distinct

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
    A. Ambit
    B. Erosion
    C. Fillip
    D. Revolt

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
    A. In
    B. On
    C. To
    D. Of

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
    A. Evoke
    B. Indulge
    C. Embrace
    D. Had

Answers

1. C   2.D   3.A   4. C   5. D   6. B   7.D   8.C   9.B   10.D   11.C

12. B   13.D   14.C   15.D   16.A   17.C   18.D   19.B   20. D   **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

1. **C) The city's sewage treatment plants do not operate at full capacity, and untreated or partially treated sewage ends up in the river.**

   The passage specifically states that the city's sewage treatment plants do not operate to their full capacity and untreated or partially treated sewage flows into the river, which are major problems identified in the report. Other options like blaming the poor population or criticizing the NGT's deadline are not the main issues highlighted in the report.

2. **D) To take more effective action in reducing pollution levels in the Yamuna.**

   The passage concludes with the statement "The Delhi government must get its act together," which indicates that the government is expected to take more effective measures in reducing the pollution levels in the Yamuna. While making the river water fit for bathing (Option c) is one aspect, it is not the primary expectation as per the passage. Options a and b, they don't represent the primary expectation.

3. **A. To trap sewage from Delhi's three large drains and prevent it from being dumped into the Yamuna river.**

   The passage mentions that the interceptor drain project was initiated with the intention to trap the sewage from Delhi's three large drains that carry most of the city's waste and dump it into the Yamuna. This project was seen as an alternative to laying a massive network of new lines.

4. **C. The constant confrontation between the Delhi government and the city's LG.**

   While all options refer to problems mentioned in the passage, the question asks for a primary challenge affecting the "effectiveness of the Yamuna cleaning work." According to the passage, one of the key issues is the constant confrontation between the Delhi government and the city's LG, which has been noted as a reason for hindering the progress of cleaning work.

5. **D) Based on the passage, the answer is D. Both A and B are true.**

6. **B) Stretch** (noun) – Expanse, area, tract, extent, spread फैलाव (स्थल, क्षेत्र)

   The term 'stretch' in the context of the passage refers to a portion or extent of the river. Therefore, option A (the span of the river flowing through the capital) and option C (the extent of the river affected by pollution) are applicable and correct. Similarly, option D (a specific portion of the river's course) could also be an interpretation. However, option B (the duration of a certain task) is not a correct interpretation of 'stretch' in the context of this passage.

7. **D) Critical**

The author uses a critical tone in the passage, expressing dissatisfaction with the ongoing efforts to clean the Yamuna River. The author criticizes the efforts of the Delhi government, mentioning that the pollution levels have not significantly reduced despite the creation of a panel for rejuvenation. The author also critiques the lack of coordination among the various authorities involved.

8. **C) The failure of the authorities in controlling the pollution of the Yamuna River**
The main theme of the passage is the failure of the authorities in controlling the pollution of the Yamuna River. The passage discusses the ongoing pollution issues, the efforts to resolve these issues and criticizes the authorities for their lack of effective action. Various aspects related to this main theme are discussed, including the inefficiency of sewage treatment plants, the improper planning of waste disposal systems, and the lack of coordination between different authorities.

9. B) THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students, it would stop releasing merit lists for the Class X and XII exam results.

10. D) **ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET** (phrase) – to welcome someone as a very important person or guest किसी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति या अतिथि के रूप में स्वागत करना

11. C) **DCAB**(1DCAB2)
D: This connects to Sentence 1, through "this growth rate" referring to the previously mentioned 13.5 per cent GDP expansion, which is an instance of noun-pronoun relationship
C: Sentence D is followed by Sentence C because it provides additional information about the April-June quarter mentioned in Sentence D
A: Sentence A follows C because it presents a contrasting idea - even though the economy did well in the April-June quarter, there are other factors, like the Russia-Ukraine war, that have had a negative impact.
B: This sentence logically follows Sentence A because it gives further context to the economic situation. Despite the disruptions mentioned in Sentence A, the economy was expected to perform better due to the "low base" of the previous year.
2: Finally, Sentence 2 summarizes the reasons for the performance of the economy, connecting back to all the previous sentences. "Below-par performance" directly links back to the discussion of the economic growth in Sentences 1, D, and B, and the disruptions mentioned in Sentence A

12. **B) PSRQ**
P: This sentence introduces the topic - the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) and its impact. So it cannot follow any other sentences as no other sentence introduces NIRF before it.
S: This sentence continues the topic by discussing a particular aspect of the NIRF, and it

mentions "this", a pronoun referring to the NIRF mentioned in sentence P.

R: This sentence continues the critique from sentence S, delving further into the problems associated with the NIRF. Here the pronoun "this" is implicitly referring back to the benchmarking system mentioned in sentence S

Q: This sentence serves as a conclusion to the whole argument, summarizing the sentiment towards the NIRF rankings.

13. **D) SPRQ**

S: The sentence S sets the overall context of the situation regarding the problem of rainwater accumulation and the need for urban infrastructure upgrade in certain areas.

P: The sentence P provides specific examples of the cities grappling with the problem mentioned in sentence S, thus following the principle of general to specific details. The mention of "Bathinda" and "Abohar" and their problems is a direct continuation from the issues raised in sentence S.

R: Continuing from the specific city examples in sentence P, sentence R introduces another city "Muktsar" that is facing similar problems. This follows the noun-pronoun relationship as "Muktsar" is another city name (noun) connecting to the other city names (nouns) mentioned in sentence P.

Q: The sentence Q summarises the problems faced by the cities as a whole. It takes the problem of waterlogging from sentences P and R and introduces an associated problem of power cuts that invariably follow the waterlogging. This is also an example of the time sequence indicating words as it mentions what happens "after" the occurrence of waterlogging, linking it to the problems described in the previous sentences.

14. **C) QSRP**

Q: Q must be first as it provides the context for the situation, i.e., the removal of fare caps. This allows the rest of the paragraphs to make sense

S: S follows Q because it elaborates on the consequence of the situation introduced in Q, from the customers' perspective. The "already burdened with high fares" is a reference to the fare caps mentioned in Q.

R: R follows S as it further explains the situation from the airlines' perspective, providing a counter-point to the customer viewpoint presented in S. The mention of "the current fuel situation" connects back to the "increase in aviation fuel cost" mentioned in S

P: P concludes the sequence by bringing in the notion of "surge pricing" which is a result of the removal of the fare caps introduced in Q. Also, the "upcoming festival season" gives the time sequence of these events.

15. **D) PQSR**

P: Sentence 'P' introduces the Supreme Court's ruling on non-forest activities, stating that the state government cannot permit such activities without the Centre's approval

Q: Sentence 'Q' provides an example of the aforementioned legal scenario where the

Ministry of Environment and Forests explains the actions of the Gujarat Government, which have been done in accordance with these legal provisions

S: Sentence 'S' continues on this thread, adding that the ministry has also written to states and Union Territories (UTs) to remove encroachments according to existing laws and prevent any further ones.

R: Finally, sentence 'R' concludes the paragraph by drawing a comparison between the Supreme Court's firm stand and the inconsistent behavior of the governments, indicating the state of affairs.

16. **A) QSPR**

    Q: Q is a logical starting point because it sets the context for the whole passage, mentioning the compliance deadline set by the aviation watchdog for airlines. It introduces the problem of safety risks that need to be addressed.

    S: S is logically the second sentence because it explains what the aviation watchdog's "strong message" (from Q) entails - the issuing of several instructions. The mention of surprise inspections connects the "safety risks" mentioned in Q with the subsequent sentences in the paragraph.

    P: P follows S because it provides specific examples of the problems revealed by the "surprise inspections" mentioned in S - airlines not properly identifying causes of reported defects and not placing qualified engineers at all airports..

    R: R logically follows P as it discusses the reaction to the problems identified in P. The use of the pronoun "it" in R refers to the situation (airlines not properly identifying causes of reported defects and not placing qualified engineers at all airports) described in P. It describes the necessary measures, like ramping up security oversight, taken in response to the issues raised in the previous sentences.

17. **C) Steep** (adjective) – Sharp, precipitous, abrupt, sudden तीव्र

    "Steep". It fits well in the context, as it's used metaphorically to describe a rapid and significant change - in this case, the downfall of Boris Johnson's political career. The word "steep" is grammatically correct as well, because it functions as an adjective describing the noun "fall".

    - **Appreciable** (adjective) – Noticeable, perceptible, discernible, काफी
    - **Adverse** (adjective) – Unfavourable, disadvantageous, negative, प्रतिकूल
    - **Distinct** (adjective) – Clear, definite, clear-cut, noticeable, marked, apparent स्पष्ट

18. **D) Revolt** (noun) – Rebellion, insurrection, uprising, mutiny विद्रोह

    - **Ambit** (noun) – Range, scope, extent, compass, दायरा
    - **Erosion** (noun) – the gradual reduction or destruction of something, कमी
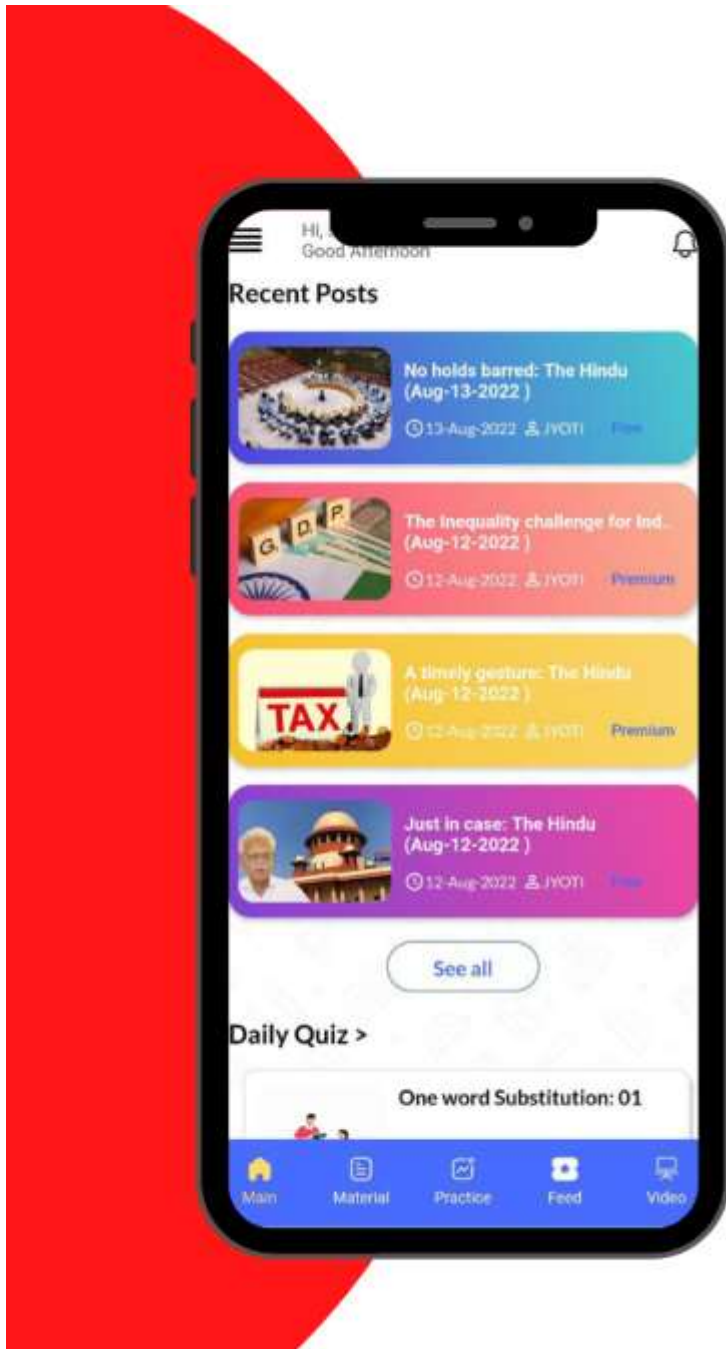   - **Fillip** (noun) – Boost, spur, stimulus, impetus, प्रोत्साहन

The context indicates internal disagreement or rebellion within a group, and "revolt" accurately portrays this. It is grammatically correct because it is a noun following the preposition "an", as the structure "an inner-party revolt" demands.

19. **B) Impose** (verb) – Inflict, enforce, levy, apply थोपना

   - **Evoke** (verb) – Summon, bring forth, provoke, call up, elicit उत्तेजित करना

   - **Indulge** (verb) – Yield, surrender, give in to, satisfy, gratify में लिप्त होना

   - **Embrace** (verb) – Accept, adopt, take up, assume, espouse, implement, take on अपनाना

   The preposition "on" is used here in blank to express who the rules are imposed on - in this case, "the public". The preposition "on" is the most fitting choice in this context and grammatically correct as it introduces the object of the verb "imposed"

20. D) The auxiliary verb "had" fits perfectly in the blank. The past perfect tense is used here because it denotes an action (offering details of the social events) that was completed before another action in the past (his resignation and misleading Parliament). "Had" is grammatically correct in this context, as it forms the past perfect tense with the past participle "offered"

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