

Second moonshot: on the Chandrayaan-3 mission on July 14

Chandrayaan 3 speaks to the moon's growing importance in scientific and political **milieus**

At 2.35 p.m. Indian Standard Time on July 14, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon **onboard** a **Launch Vehicle Mark 3** from Sriharikota. Chandrayaan-3 is largely a **replica** of its **predecessor**, Chandrayaan-2, that was launched in July 2019 in the form of an **orbiter** and a **lander** ('Vikram') **bearing** a **rover** ('Pragyan'). While the orbiter entered into orbit around the moon, the surface mission failed in September when the lander crashed instead of **executing** a slow **descent**. ISRO later identified a problem in the guidance software and unexpected **dispersion** in the **propulsion** system during certain phases of the descent. In Chandrayaan-3, the rocket will place the payload in an **elliptical orbit** around the earth, where a propulsion module will **take over** and **pilot** the lander to a circular orbit around the moon. Finally, the lander will **detach** and begin a series of **manoeuvres culminating** in a **gradual** landing (on August 23-24 this year) over the surface. To improve the chances of success at this stage, ISRO has **strengthened** the lander's legs, lowered its minimum **thrust**, enhanced the availability of power, and upgraded the landing sequence.

This will be India's second attempt to **soft-land** a lander and rover on the **lunar** surface, and **demonstrate** end-to-end capability in the relevant technologies. Soft-landing on the moon is a **complicated** exercise and the possibility of failure exists, even if it may be lower — yet there is good reason to focus on the **consequences** of a complete success. The mission will **play out** with India's decision to join the **Artemis Accords in the backdrop**; in this group, if the mission succeeds, the country will be just the second to have soft-landed a rover on the moon. The **importance** of this **feat cannot be overstated**: a **slew** of public and private moon-landing missions **is in the works** worldwide as the **establishment** of permanent bases on the natural satellite has emerged as a major **geopolitical** goal. The Accords define the U.S.-led **axis** while China and Russia are working on an 'International Lunar Research Station'. The **success** of Chandrayaan-3 **will** also make it the surface mission closest to the lunar south pole **to date**, a region of the moon that has been found to be **geologically** unique and **host to** spots in permanent shadow. To study these and other features, the mission has six scientific payloads. A seventh **instrument**, on the propulsion module, **will profile** the signs of life on earth to help scientists **look for** similar signs on planets beyond the solar system. **Taken together**, Chandrayaan-3 offers opportunities for India to lead the world's response to the moon's growing importance in the scientific and the political milieus. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Moonshot** (noun) – an act or instance of launching a spacecraft to the moon.
2. **Milieu** (noun) – Environment, setting, ambiance, atmosphere, climate माहौल
3. **Onboard** (adjective) – available or situated on a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle. सवार
4. **Launch Vehicle Mark 3** (noun) – a 3-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. This launch vehicle is designed for carrying heavier satellites.
5. **Replica** (noun) – an exact copy of something प्रतिरूप
6. **Predecessor** (noun) – Previous design/model.
7. **Orbiter** (noun) – a spacecraft designed to go into orbit, especially one that does not subsequently land
8. **Lander** (noun) – a spacecraft designed to land on the surface of a planet or moon
9. **Bear** (verb) – Carry, transport, convey, bring ले जाना
10. **Rover** (noun) – A vehicle for driving over rough surface, especially one driven remotely on other planets
11. **Execute** (verb) – Implement, carry out, accomplish, perform कार्यान्वित करना
12. **Descent** (noun) – an act of moving downwards, dropping, or falling. उतार
13. **Dispersion** (noun) – the distribution or spreading of the propulsion system's thrust or energy during certain phases of the spacecraft's descent.
14. **Propulsion** (noun) – a force that pushes something forward आगे को धक्का देना
15. **Elliptical orbit** (noun) – the revolving of one object around another in an oval-shaped path called an ellipse
16. **Take over** (phrasal verb) – Assume control of, acquire, take control of ले लेना
17. **Pilot** (verb) – Guide, steer, direct, control संचालन करना
18. **Detach** (verb) – Disconnect, separate, disengage, uncouple अलग करना
19. **Manoeuvre** (noun) – Operation, action, activity पैंतरेबाज़ी
20. **Culminate** (verb) – end with, finish with, terminate with, conclude with समापन होना
21. **Gradual** (adjective) – Slow, steady, phased, progressive धीरे-धीरे
22. **Strengthen** (verb) – Reinforce, fortify, bolster, toughen मजबूत करना
23. **Thrust** (noun) – a strong push धक्का
24. **Soft-land** (verb) – To land a spacecraft gently on a celestial body

25. **Lunar** (adjective) – Relating to the moon
चंद्रमा से संबंधित
26. **Demonstrate** (verb) – Show, display, exhibit, present दिखाना
27. **Complicated** (adjective) – Complex, intricate, involved, convoluted जटिल
28. **Consequence** (noun) – Result, outcome, effect, repercussion परिणाम
29. **Play out** (phrasal verb) – Happen, occur, take place, transpire होना
30. **Artemis Accord** (noun) – An international agreement regarding the exploration and use of outer space
31. **In the backdrop** (phrase) – Against the background, in the context संदर्भ में
32. **Feat** (noun) – Achievement, accomplishment, success, उपलब्धि
33. **Overstated** (adjective) – Exaggerated, overemphasized, overplayed बढ़ाकर कहा हुआ
34. **Slew** (noun) – Large number, multitude, host, mass बहुत सारे
35. **In the works** (phrase) – being planned, worked on, or produced.
36. **Establishment** (noun) – setting up, formation, creation, foundation. स्थापना
37. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors. भू-राजनीतिक
38. **Axis** (noun) – Alignment, alliance, coalition गठबंधन
39. **To date** (phrase) – Until now, so far, up to the present अब तक
40. **Geologically** (adverb) – Pertaining to the science that deals with the earth's physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it भूविज्ञान संबंधी
41. **Host to** (verb) – hold, present, accommodate, lay on उपस्थित होना
42. **Profile** (verb) – Outline, depict, portray, represent चित्रण करना
43. **Look for** (phrasal verb) – Search for, seek, be on the lookout for, scout for खोजना
44. **Taken together** (phrase) – In sum, everything included, in all, in total, collectively समग्र रूप से

Summary of the Editorial

1. India is planning to launch the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon on July 14 at 2.35 p.m. Indian Standard Time.
2. The mission will be carried out by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), onboard a Launch Vehicle Mark 3 from Sriharikota.
3. Chandrayaan-3 is largely similar to its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2, which was launched in July 2019.
4. The previous mission failed in its attempt to soft-land a lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan) on the moon due to a problem in the guidance software and dispersion in the propulsion system.
5. The Chandrayaan-3 mission plans to correct these issues and the lander will undergo a series of maneuvers culminating in a gradual landing on the lunar surface on August 23-24.
6. Several adjustments have been made to increase the success chances of the landing, including strengthening the lander's legs, lowering its minimum thrust, enhancing power availability, and upgrading the landing sequence.
7. This will be India's second attempt to demonstrate end-to-end capability in soft-landing a rover on the lunar surface.
8. The mission will take place with India's decision to join the Artemis Accords, which aim to establish permanent bases on the moon as a geopolitical goal.
9. If successful, India will be the second country to have soft-landed a rover on the moon, further establishing its presence in the space exploration arena.
10. Chandrayaan-3 will also make it the closest surface mission to the lunar south pole, a region found to be geologically unique and home to spots in permanent shadow.
11. The mission carries six scientific payloads designed to study the moon's unique features.
12. A seventh instrument on the propulsion module will profile the signs of life on earth, aiding scientists in their search for similar signs on other planets.
13. The success of the mission will put India at the forefront of the moon's growing importance in the scientific community and political world.
14. The moon is gaining significance worldwide, with many countries and private companies planning moon-landing missions and establishing permanent bases.
15. India's Chandrayaan-3 mission underscores the country's aspirations to play a key role in space exploration and its commitment to scientific advancements.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What improvements have been made to Chandrayaan-3 to increase the chances of success over its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Increase in the thrust of the lander and decrease in power availability.
 - B. Strengthening of the lander's legs, increase in its minimum thrust, enhancement of power availability, and upgrade in the landing sequence.
 - C. Enhancement in the propulsion system and modification in the guidance software.
 - D. There have been no changes; Chandrayaan-3 is an exact replica of Chandrayaan-2.
2. **What was identified as the cause of the failed surface mission in Chandrayaan-2?**
 - A. The lander's legs were not strong enough.
 - B. There was a lack of power in the propulsion module.
 - C. There was a problem in the guidance software and unexpected dispersion in the propulsion system during certain phases of the descent.
 - D. The payload was placed in a circular orbit instead of an elliptical one.
3. **What could be the significant consequences of the success of India's second attempt to soft-land a lander and rover on the lunar surface?**
 - A. India will become the third country to have soft-landed a rover on the moon.
 - B. The success of Chandrayaan-3 will bring about major shifts in geopolitical goals, with India emerging as the leader.
 - C. The mission will put India on par with China and Russia in the development of an 'International Lunar Research Station'.
 - D. India will potentially be the second country to have soft-landed a rover on the moon and the success of Chandrayaan-3 will offer opportunities for India to lead the world's response to the moon's growing scientific and political importance.
4. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about Chandrayaan-3 EXCEPT that:**
 - A. The mission will make India the second country to have soft-landed a rover on the moon if successful.
 - B. The Chandrayaan-3 mission includes seven scientific instruments.
 - C. The success of Chandrayaan-3 will establish India's dominance in lunar north pole explorations.
 - D. The success of Chandrayaan-3 will add to India's contribution to the world's response to the moon's growing importance in scientific and political contexts.
5. **What tone does the author adopt in the passage?**
 - A. Skeptical
 - B. Critical
 - C. Pessimistic
 - D. Optimistic
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The scientific instruments aboard Chandrayaan-3
 - B. The geopolitical competition between India, the U.S., China, and Russia
 - C. The previous failures of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- D. The upcoming launch of Chandrayaan-3 and its significance
7. Which of the following words is a synonym for '**Culminate**' as used in the passage?
- A. Decline
 - B. Begin
 - C. Conclude
 - D. Initiate
8. Which of the following words is an antonym for '**Milieu**' as used in the passage?
- A. Surroundings
 - B. Isolation
 - C. Setting
 - D. Context
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
In the declaration adopted by G20 leaders/ the predominance of the Russia-Ukraine war/ come as a surprise/ at the Bali summit does not.
- A. The predominance of the Russia-Ukraine war in the declaration adopted by G20 leaders at the Bali summit does not come as a surprise.
 - B. In the declaration adopted by G20 leaders the predominance of the Russia-Ukraine war at the Bali summit does not come as a surprise.
 - C. In the declaration adopted by G20 leaders come as a surprise at the Bali summit does not the predominance of the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - D. The predominance of the Russia-Ukraine war at the Bali summit does not in the declaration adopted by G20 leaders come as a surprise.
10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom
Our team showed ***a stout heart*** last night, never giving in to the notion that our opponents couldn't be beaten.
- A. A change made to something in order to correct or improve it
 - B. Courage, determination especially in the face of adversity or hardship.
 - C. To make an unsatisfactory situation as pleasant as possible
 - D. The most important or leading position
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. Free and compulsory education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years is a fundamental right in India.**
- A. Observing that 70% of new schools established in India in the past eight years are private ones,
 - B. Yet, among the several disturbing facets of Unesco's Global Education Monitoring Report 2022 is the one showing that a large number of the Indian people have given up on state education.

- C. 'Only 46% of adults agreed that the primary responsibility for providing school education rested with the government, the lowest share amongst 35 middle- and high-income countries,' the report notes, citing its survey of parents.
- D. It issues a stark verdict: 'Expansion of access through non-state provision is inequitable.'
- 2. In India, children from the richest quintile were seven times as likely as children from the poorest quintile to attend private early childhood institutions.'**
- A.BCDA B.CDAB C. BCAD D.ABCD
- 12. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. The helicopters are expected to bolster India's air power as.
- Q. The four 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship choppers — armed with air-to-air missiles, 20-mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons — have been developed mainly for mountain warfare by the state-run aerospace and defence major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- R. They are capable of carrying out strikes on the enemy's infantry, tanks, bunkers, drones etc. in high-altitude areas, besides being well equipped for counter-insurgency operations
- S. The induction of the first fleet of the indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) into the Indian Air Force is a major step forward for 'Make in India' in the defence sector.
- A. SQRP B.PSRQ C.SQPR D.PRQS
- 13. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Gross direct tax collections rose by 30 per cent to Rs 8.36 lakh crore till September 17 of the ongoing financial year compared to the year-ago period; this sum includes revenue from corporate income tax (Rs 4.36 lakh crore) and personal income tax (nearly Rs 4 lakh crore).
- Q. In a welcome sign of heightened tax compliance, advance tax collections grew by 17 per cent to Rs 2.95 lakh crore in the April-September period.
- R. Indian economy is back on track after the worldwide upheaval caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.
- S. The green shoots are clearly visible.
- A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ
- 14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Signifying a vital shift in US policy on marijuana, President Joe Biden recently pardoned around 6,500 people who were convicted of simple possession of marijuana under federal laws and were serving time in jails.
- Q. While the pardon paves the way for these people to smoothly reintegrate into the society and pursue gainful activities, including work and education, what is more significant is the President's promise of looking into the possibility of separating marijuana from the legal category of dangerous semi-synthetic drugs like heroin, Ecstasy and LSD.
- R. Central to the clash is the prevalence of cannabis as a traditionally grown and consumed plant by many communities and its growing acceptance worldwide.
- S. This revisiting of the decades-old rule is remarkable, for it sets right a wrong by addressing the long-brewing tussle between culture and policing over the recreational use of substances.

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

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

- P. Two decades after the Union Government approved the commercial cultivation of Bt cotton, a genetically modified (GM) crop, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of the Environment Ministry has recommended the environmental release of GM mustard.
- Q. Their votaries list benefits such as higher yield, reduced input cost, greater pest resistance and lesser need for pesticides. The naysayers claim that these crops adversely impact human health and food security.
- R. GM crops have been the subject of an animated debate over the years.
- S. This green go-ahead has apparently cleared the decks for the commercial use of the country's first GM food crop.

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

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

- P. The CCI has also directed Google not to restrict app developers from using third-party billing or payment processing services in India.
- Q. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed back-to-back fines on Google and ordered it to desist from indulging in unfair business practices.
- R. On the back foot after these setbacks, Google says it remains committed to users and developers, while insisting that its model has 'powered India's digital transformation' by keeping costs low.
- S. A penalty of Rs 936 crore pertains to Google's Play Store policies, while the US-based tech giant has been told to pay Rs 1,337.76 crore for 'abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem'.

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

Comprehension

Initial estimates for India's external trade performance in May are a ____1____ of even tougher times ahead. The 10.3% decline in goods exports marks the fourth successive month of contraction in outbound shipments and the sixth such occasion in eight months. May's \$35 billion export value is only 0.8% over April's figure that was a six-month low. ____2____ electronics exports, which grew healthily year-on-year as well as sequentially, exporters across sectors had a tough month. Engineering goods that make ____3____ over a quarter of India's goods export ____4____, contracted for the 11th month in a row, while the employment-intensive textiles sector shrank for the seventh straight month.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Harbinger
B. Descendant
C. Inheritor
D. Offspring

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

- A. Include

- B. Containing
 - C. Barring
 - D. Embracing
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. In
 - B. For
 - C. Out
 - D. Up
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. Blunder
 - B. Vermin
 - C. Basket
 - D. Bundle

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- B)** The passage states that to improve the success of Chandrayaan-3, ISRO has made several enhancements which include strengthening the lander's legs, lowering its minimum thrust, enhancing the power availability, and upgrading the landing sequence.
- C)** The passage mentions that the failure of the surface mission in Chandrayaan-2 was due to a problem in the guidance software and unexpected dispersion in the propulsion system during certain phases of the descent.
- D)** As the passage mentions, if the mission is successful, India will become only the second country to have soft-landed a rover on the moon. Furthermore, the success of Chandrayaan-3 will position India to lead the world's response to the moon's growing importance in the scientific and political contexts. Option A is incorrect as it inaccurately positions India as the third country to achieve this feat. Option B overstates the geopolitical impact of the mission, and option C is incorrect as the passage doesn't mention India working with China and Russia on an 'International Lunar Research Station'.

- C. The success of Chandrayaan-3 will establish India's dominance in lunar north pole explorations.**

According to the passage, if successful, Chandrayaan-3 will be the surface mission closest to the lunar south pole, not the north pole. It describes the south pole of the moon as geologically unique and host to spots in permanent shadow. Options A, B, and D are all stated as true in the passage.

- D) Optimistic**

The tone of the passage can be identified as optimistic. The author mentions the improvements that ISRO has made to the Chandrayaan-3 mission to enhance the chances of its success. The author further talks about the potential impact of the mission's success, highlighting how it could position India to lead in both scientific and political responses to the moon's increasing importance.

- D) The upcoming launch of Chandrayaan-3 and its significance**

While the passage does touch on the scientific instruments aboard Chandrayaan-3, the geopolitical context, and ISRO's past failures, the central theme revolves around the upcoming launch of Chandrayaan-3 and its implications. The author discusses the specifics of the mission, the improvements made following Chandrayaan-2's partial failure, and the potential scientific and geopolitical importance of the mission's success.

- C. Conclude**

Culminate (verb) – end with, finish with, terminate with, conclude with समापन होना

- B. Isolation**

'Milieu' in this passage refers to a person's social environment or the surrounding context. Therefore, 'Isolation' which refers to a state of separation or being alone, is an antonym for 'Milieu'.

9. **A) The predominance of the Russia-Ukraine war in the declaration adopted by G20 leaders at the Bali summit does not come as a surprise.**

10. **B) A Stout heart** (phrase) – Courage, nerves, determination, or resolve, especially in the face of adversity or hardship. साहसी, साहसिक

11. **C) 1BCAD2**

1: The first sentence introduces the topic, discussing the fundamental right to education for all children aged 6-14 in India.

B: The sentence beginning with "Yet, among the several disturbing facets of Unesco's Global Education Monitoring Report 2022..." naturally follows the first sentence (1). It introduces the report by Unesco and the overall issue of people losing faith in state education, creating a contrast with the ideal situation outlined in the first sentence. The "Yet" works as a connector, signaling a contrast or complication in relation to the first sentence

C: The sentence "'Only 46% of adults agreed that the primary responsibility for providing school education rested with the government..." continues the discussion about the issues pointed out in the report mentioned in the sentence B.

A: "Observing that 70% of new schools established in India in the past eight years are private ones..." logically follows sentence C. This fact is another piece of evidence backing up the sentiment mentioned in sentence C - that people are losing faith in government-led education.

D: The sentence "it issues a stark verdict: 'Expansion of access through non-state provision is inequitable.'" provides a conclusion from the report, which makes sense after the facts and data provided in sentences B, C, and A.

2: This sentence concludes the whole idea or theme that private education is not providing equitable access to education. It presents a concrete fact that underlines the statements from the UNESCO report described in the previous sentences.

12. **C) SQPR**

S: This sentence introduces the main topic which is about the induction of a new type of helicopter (LCH) into the Indian Air Force, which was made in India. This is the natural starting point of the paragraph as it introduces the main subject

Q: This sentence provides additional information about the LCH mentioned in sentence S, including its capabilities and who developed it. The pronoun "The" in the beginning of the sentence implies a continuation from a previous statement about a certain topic, here the LCH, making Q follow S.

P: This sentence continues the discussion of the helicopters from sentence Q. The pronoun "The helicopters" refers back to the helicopters introduced in sentences S and described in Q. This signifies the effects of the previously described helicopters, indicating it should follow Q

R: Finally, this sentence provides even more specific details about the capabilities of the

helicopters mentioned in the previous sentences. The pronoun "They" clearly refers to the helicopters discussed in the previous sentences, making R the concluding sentence.

13. **B) RSPQ**

R: The paragraph must start with the statement R "Indian economy is back on track after the worldwide upheaval caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war." as this provides the broad context for the subsequent details related to tax collections in India

S: This sentence naturally follows R. The "green shoots" here metaphorically refer to signs of economic recovery. This is inferred from the general context provided in R.

P: This sentence provides specific evidence of the "green shoots" or economic recovery mentioned in S. It shows the increase in tax collection, a positive sign of economic improvement.

Q: Finally, the paragraph would be logically concluded by Q "In a welcome sign of heightened tax compliance, advance tax collections grew by 17 per cent to Rs 2.95 lakh crore in the April-September period."

14. **D) PQSR**

P: Starting with P, it introduces the new development: President Joe Biden's pardon of people convicted for simple possession of marijuana. This establishes the context and main topic of the paragraph.

Q: Then Q follows, as it expands on the implications of Biden's actions (paving the way for people to reintegrate into society), and introduces a new promise made by the President, regarding reclassifying marijuana as separate from other semi-synthetic drugs

S: S is then appropriate, as it connects to the promise mentioned in Q and comments on its significance in addressing the conflict between culture and policing over recreational drug use.

R: Finally, R makes sense as the last sentence because it further elaborates on this conflict mentioned in S, emphasizing the cultural significance of cannabis and its worldwide acceptance. The topic of the paragraph has thus been expanded from a specific policy change to broader cultural and global issues

15. **B) PSRQ**

P: Sentence P sets the context by introducing the topic of GM crops and the government's action.

S: Sentence S continues the narrative by describing the result of the government's approval, indicating the potential for GM mustard's commercial use.

R: Sentence R introduces the existence of a debate about GM crops, acting as a transition into the various perspectives involved in this debate.

Q: Sentence Q then details the two sides of the debate introduced in sentence R, explaining the arguments of both the proponents and opponents of GM crops

16. **A) QSPR**

Q: In this sentence, CCI is introduced, which we know to be the Competition Commission of India. This makes it a good starting point.

S: This sentence logically follows Q. The exact fines that were imposed on Google, their

amount, and the reasons for them are mentioned here. The use of the word "penalty" in this sentence directly links back to the "fines" imposed in sentence Q.

P: This sentence continues the narrative from sentence S and further describes the actions taken by the CCI.

R: Finally, sentence R concludes the paragraph by providing Google's response to the actions taken by the CCI. The phrase "these setbacks" clearly refers back to the fines and restrictions discussed in sentences Q, S, and P.

17. A) **Harbinger** (noun) – Forerunner, precursor, signal, omen सूचक

In this context, the term '**harbinger**' is used to denote something that signals or foreshadows what is to come. The sentence suggests that the initial estimates of India's external trade performance indicate potentially more challenging times ahead.

18. C) **Barring** (preposition) – Except for, excluding, apart from, aside from छोड़कर

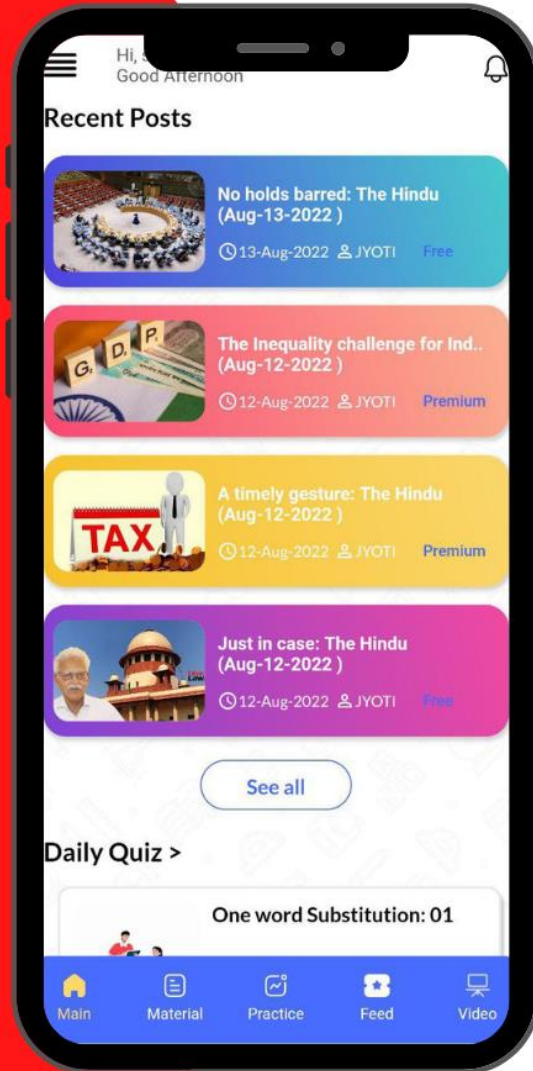
The term '**barring**' is used here to denote an exception to the general trend being discussed. The sentence suggests that with the exception of electronics exports, exporters across sectors had a tough month.

19. D) **Make up** (phrasal verb) – Comprise, form, constitute, represent बनाना

The phrase "make up" is used in the sentence to mean "constitute" or "compose". Here, it's being used to indicate that engineering goods account for over a quarter of India's goods export.

20. C) **Basket** (noun) – Collection, assortment, range, group

In the context of exports and trade, a 'basket' refers to a group or collection of goods or commodities. The sentence suggests that engineering goods that make up a significant part of India's export basket have been contracting for 11 months in a row. '



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