

Work in progress: On the GST Council meet and issues

The 50th GST Council meet **lifts** the **fog** on many areas; **execution holds the key**

Meeting after nearly five months, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Tuesday **unravelled** some **knotty** issues that were **hanging fire** for a long time, such as the **constitution** of **Appellate Tribunals** and the tax treatment for the **booming** online gaming industry. With the appointment **norms** for tribunal members cleared, the Centre has given an assurance that the first set of tribunals should become operational in four to six months. While States have **proposed** 50 tribunal **benches**, these will come up in a **phased** manner, beginning with State capitals and cities with High Court benches. Industry may hope for quicker **redress** of **mounting GST litigations clogging up** courts. On the other hand, businesses have reacted with much **consternation** to the Council's decision to finalise a 28% GST **levy** on the **face value** of all bets placed in online games, casinos or horse-racing, with many e-gaming players **terming** it a **death knell** for the growing industry and its thousands of jobs. This was not a **hasty** decision, having been considered by a ministerial group of the Council not once, but twice since its formation in late 2020. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Council **acknowledged** that Goa and Sikkim **rely heavily on** casino-driven tourism revenues, but also **examined** the moral question of whether this can be **equated** to the more **compassionate** tax treatment **warranted** for **essential** goods and services. With the Electronics and IT Ministry also **formulating** a policy for online gaming, this **decision**, requiring an **amendment** to the GST law, **may** yet need some review and **fine tuning**.

The Council also **granted** tax **exemptions**, reduced or clarified some rates and **regularised** past **incongruencies** in tax payments on some items **owing to** confusion about their **classification**. So, food and **beverages** in cinema halls will now attract a lower 5% GST, as would unfried, uncooked snack **pellets**, fish **soluble** paste and **imitation zari yarn**. It is not clear why the Council took six years after the GST **regime's** launch to **tweak** these rates. **Exempting** drugs imported for cancer and some rare diseases, **for instance**, **could** have been **envisaged** earlier as well, just as the intended higher tax levy on sport utility vehicles could have been. **Dissuading** the use of larger personal vehicles **is** an obvious **necessity** for a country where traffic **congestion** is **intense** and **widespread**. The **impact** of some decisions on individual sectors **will** depend on the **fine print**, but **the Council**, which may meet less frequently in the upcoming poll season, **has taken its eye off** the promised **overhaul** of GST rates. No **successor** was named to **steer** the ministerial group on **rate restructuring**, previously **helmed** by **erstwhile** Karnataka Chief Minister, B.S. Bommai. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Lift** (verb) – disperse, disappear, clear, vanish, dissolve, दूर करना
2. **Fog** (noun) – bewilderment, puzzlement, perplexity, muddle, confusion, उलझन, भ्रांति
3. **Execution** (noun) – implementation, accomplishment, carrying out, enactment, fulfillment, कार्यान्वयन
4. **Hold the key** (phrase) – to be very important in achieving success, control or understand something, be central महत्वपूर्ण होना
5. **Unravel** (verb) – solve, resolve, untangle, decode, clarify, सुलझाना
6. **Knotty** (adjective) – complex, complicated, difficult, tricky, intricate, जटिल
7. **Hang fire** (phrase) – to delay or be delayed in taking action or progressing, देरी करना
8. **Constitution** (noun) – formation, creation, establishment, organization, गठन
9. **Appellate Tribunal** (noun) – A specialized court that hears appeals in a specific area of law. An appellate tribunal has the power to change the decision of a lower court or tribunal.
10. **Booming** (adjective) – thriving, flourishing, prospering, burgeoning, तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ
11. **Norm** (noun) – standard, rule, criterion, principle, मानदंड
12. **Propose** (verb) – suggest, put forward, recommend, प्रस्तावित करना
13. **Bench** (noun) – judiciary, judges, magistrates; a court of law with a number of judges. न्यायपीठ
14. **Phased** (adjective) – carried out in stages, gradual, चरणबद्ध
15. **Redress** (noun) – reparation, restitution, comeback, atonement, amends, remedy समाधान, सुधार
16. **Mounting** (adjective) – increasing, escalating, rising, बढ़ता हुआ
17. **Litigation** (noun) – legal proceeding, lawsuit, legal action, मुकदमा
18. **Clog up** (phrasal verb) – obstruct, block, impede, बाधा डालना
19. **Consternation** (noun) – dismay, disquiet, distress, विस्मय
20. **Levy** (noun) – imposition, charging, collection, tariff कर लगाना
21. **Face value** (noun) – The apparent value or worth of something as it seems on the surface.
22. **Term** (verb) – call, name, label, नाम देना

23. **Death knell** (noun) – a sign of the end or the failure of something, अंत का संकेत
24. **Hasty** (adjective) – quick, rapid, hurried, reckless त्वरित
25. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, concede, स्वीकार करना
26. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend on, count on, bank on, have recourse to, पर निर्भर होना
27. **Examine** (verb) – scrutinize, inspect, probe, जांचना
28. **Equate** (verb) – compare, liken to, relate, connect, समान बनाना
29. **Compassionate** (adjective) – considerate, thoughtful, humane, sensitive, sympathetic, understanding., सहानुभूतिपूर्ण
30. **Warrant** (verb) – justify, necessitate, endorse, support, confirm ज़रूरी बनाना
31. **Essential** (adjective) – necessary, requisite, important, आवश्यक
32. **Formulate** (verb) – devise, create, develop, तैयार करना
33. **Amendment** (noun) – modification, revision, alteration, change, improvement संशोधन
34. **Fine tune** (verb) – making small adjustments to (something) in order to achieve the best or a desired performance.
35. **Grant** (verb) – give, confer, bestow, provide प्रदान करना
36. **Exemption** (noun) – immunity, exception, dispensation, छूट
37. **Regularise** (verb) – to change a system or a situation so that it is controlled by a set of official rules नियम के अनुसार करना
38. **Incongruency** (noun) – incongruity, inconsistency, incompatibility, inconsistency असंगतता
39. **Owing to** (phrase) – because of, as a result of, on account of, के कारण
40. **Classification** (noun) – categorization, grouping, sorting. वर्गीकरण
41. **Beverage** (noun) – a drink, such as tea, coffee, liquor, beer, milk, juice, or soft drinks, usually excluding water. पेय
42. **Pellet** (noun) – a small, rounded, compressed mass of a substance, गोली
43. **Soluble** (adjective) – dissolvable, resolvable, घुलनशील
44. **Imitation zari** (noun) – A type of thread traditionally made of fine gold or silver used in traditional Indian, Pakistani and Persian garments.
45. **Yarn** (noun) – thread, filament, fibre, धागा
46. **Regime** (noun) – system, arrangement, scheme, policy, method व्यवस्था

47. **Tweak** (verb) – a slight change to something, especially in order to make it more correct, effective, or suitable
48. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, as an example, to give an example, उदाहरणार्थ
49. **Envisage** (verb) – conceive, envision, think, perceive, apprehend. परिकल्पना करना
50. **Dissuade** (verb) – Discourage, Detract, Divert, Prevent, Disincline, रोकना
51. **Necessity** (noun) – Need, Requirement, Obligation, Essential, आवश्यकता
52. **Congestion** (noun) – Crowding, Overcrowding, Traffic jam, Blockage, भीड़-भाड़
53. **Intense** (adjective) – Extreme, Profound, Deep, Severe, तीव्र
54. **Widespread** (adjective) – Common, General, Universal, Extensive, व्यापक
55. **Fine print** (noun) – Small print, Footnotes, Details, Disclaimer, Terms and conditions, सूक्ष्म लेख (usually refers to conditions, stipulations, or restrictions that are hidden or in smaller font size in contracts or agreements)
56. **Take one's eye off** (phrase) – Neglect, Ignore, Overlook, अनदेखा करना
57. **Overhaul** (noun) – Overhauling, Revamp, Renovation, Reform, आमूल चूल परिवर्तन
58. **Successor** (noun) – someone or something that follows and takes the job, place, or position that was held by another उत्तराधिकारी
59. **Steer** (verb) – Guide, Lead, Direct, Control, रास्ते पर लाना
60. **Rate restructuring** (noun) – Redefinition or change in the rate or price of a product or service, typically in tax or finance context.
61. **Helm** (verb) – Lead, Head, Control, Command, संचालन करना
62. **Erstwhile** (adjective) – Former, Previous, Old, Past, भूतपूर्व

Summary of the Editorial

1. The 50th GST Council meeting addressed several pending issues such as the constitution of Appellate Tribunals and tax treatment for the online gaming industry.
2. The norms for tribunal member appointment were cleared with an assurance that the first set of tribunals will be operational within four to six months.
3. Initially, the tribunals will be located in state capitals and cities with High Court benches, with 50 proposed benches coming up in phases.
4. The industry may anticipate quicker redressal of accumulating GST litigations due to these tribunals.
5. The council's decision to impose a 28% GST on all online gaming, casino, and horse-racing bets was met with concern from businesses.
6. This decision was not impulsive; it was deliberated by a ministerial group of the Council twice since its formation in late 2020.
7. While the council recognized the importance of casino-driven tourism revenues in Goa and Sikkim, they also considered whether this revenue source warranted a different tax treatment compared to essential goods and services.
8. This decision will require an amendment to the GST law and might need further review due to the Electronics and IT Ministry's policy formulation for online gaming.
9. The council made decisions on tax exemptions, rate reductions, and clarified previous inconsistencies on certain items.
10. Cinema hall food and beverages and other specific items will now attract a lower 5% GST.
11. It's unclear why these changes were made six years after the initiation of the GST regime.
12. The council exempted drugs imported for cancer and some rare diseases but raised the tax on sport utility vehicles.
13. The decisions' effects on individual sectors will rely on specific details.
14. The council has not paid attention to the promised GST rate overhaul, and no successor was named for the ministerial group on rate restructuring.
15. As the council might meet less often due to the upcoming elections, these issues might remain unaddressed for some time.

Practice Exercise: Banking Pattern based

1. **What was the outcome of the GST Council's discussion regarding the tax treatment of the online gaming industry?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The GST Council agreed to exempt the online gaming industry from all taxes.
 - B. The GST Council decided to implement a 28% GST levy on all bets placed in online games, casinos, or horse-racing.
 - C. The GST Council proposed to charge a 5% GST on all online gaming activities.
 - D. The GST Council decided to postpone the decision on taxing the online gaming industry until the next meeting.
 - E. The GST Council suggested a sliding scale of tax rates depending on the type of online game being played.
2. **Why is the GST Council's decision to clarify tax rates and classifications significant?**
 - A. It allows for more efficient collection of taxes.
 - B. It will reduce the tax burden on businesses.
 - C. It will increase the revenue for the government.
 - D. It is expected to help reduce GST litigations that are clogging up courts.
 - E. It represents the first time the Council has made such clarifications.
3. **Which of the following statements is TRUE based on the passage?**
 - A. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council had not met for nearly five months before their recent meeting.
 - B. The appointment norms for tribunal members have not yet been cleared by the Centre.
 - C. The GST Council has granted some tax exemptions, clarified some rates, and corrected past discrepancies in tax payments on certain items.
 - A. (i), (ii)
 - B. (ii), (iii)
 - C. (i), (iii)
 - D. (i), (ii), (iii)
 - E. None statement is true.
4. **What is a synonym for the word 'consternation' as used in the passage?**
 - A. Excitement
 - B. Anguish
 - C. Satisfaction
 - D. Pleasure
 - E. None of the above
5. **What is an antonym for the word 'exempting' as used in the passage?**
 - A. Including
 - B. Approving
 - C. Rejecting
 - D. Distributing
 - E. None of the above

Directions (Q6 – Q9): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.

- P. Amid the Ukraine war, he has been brazenly engaging with Russia; no wonder Russian President Putin was quick to congratulate his 'dear friend', attributing Erdogan's victory to the implementation of an independent foreign policy.
- Q. Kilicdaroglu had promised to put Turkiye on a more democratic path and improve relations with the West.
- R. The US and its allies were hoping that the tide would turn in their favour, but now they have no choice but to deal with Erdogan, who has proved to be a tough nut to crack for the West.
- S. RECEP Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian rule has entered its third decade with his victory in Turkiye's runoff presidential election.
- T. He has triumphed in what has been described by his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu as 'the most unfair election in years'.

6. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

- A. (P)
- B. (Q)
- C. (R)
- D. (S)
- E. (T)

7. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

- A. (P)
- B. (Q)
- C. (R)
- D. (S)
- E. (T)

8. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

- A. (P)
- B. (Q)
- C. (R)
- D. (S)
- E. (T)

9. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?

- A. (P)
- B. (Q)
- C. (R)
- D. (S)
- E. (T)

10. **Direction:** In the following questions, a sentence is given with five words marked as (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). These words may or may not be placed in their places. Four options with different arrangements of these words are given. Mark the option with the correct

arrangements the answer. If no change is required, mark 'No arrangement required' as your answer.

The **expatiated (A)** linguist **elucidating (B)** on the esoteric tenets of epistemology and ontology, **nuances (C)** the intricate **realm (D)** of their interplay in the **erudite (E)** of metaphysical inquiry.

- A. EABCD
- B. ABCED
- C. ACBDE
- D. BAECD
- E. No rearrangement

Direction (Q11 – Q12): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

11. The actor, who was playing a detective in the film, (A)/ alleged to have pushed the director (B)/ when he asked him to get into his costume (C)/ as it was getting late. (D)/ No Error. (E)
12. Golu was advised an operation (A)/ more than thirty years back, but (B)/ due to his financial condition he (C)/ could not undergoes the procedure. (D)/ No Error. (E)

Direction (Q13- Q19): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

Starting this October, the European Union (EU) proposes to introduce a framework for levying a carbon tax on imports of products that rely _____(a)_____ non-green or sub-optimally sustainable processes and where carbon emissions are deemed to have not been adequately priced. This Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will begin with an import monitoring mechanism and _____(b)_____ in the levy of duties as determined from January 2026. The EU argues that the CBAM will ensure its climate objectives are not _____(c)_____ by carbon-intensive imports and spur cleaner production in the rest of the world. This pose a significant threat **(A)/** to some of India's biggest exports **(B)/** to the trading bloc, including iron ore and steel, **(C)/** with carbon levies estimated to range from 19.8% to 52.7%.**(D)/** During a visit to France in early April, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said it was too early to gauge the tax's impact on Indian exports, as operational clarity was yet to emerge. By last Thursday, top trade officials were more **assertive (A)** and termed tackling this **risk (B)** as one of the top items on the government's **agenda (C)**, with several options being **explored (D)**.

It is critical that the Centre reacts with greater alacrity to what may be considered by some as a sophisticated trade barrier doused in 'greenwashing' optics, proposed by the EU. Last year, about a third of India's iron, steel and aluminium exports, for instance, were shipped to EU members. Engineering products, the largest export growth driver in recent years, would be impacted too. Larger players across sectors are gradually turning to greener technologies, but the transition needs time — even more so for smaller businesses — to move away from legacy carbon-heavy technologies (such as blast furnaces for steel making). The EU believes the carbon tax is compatible with World Trade Organization norms, but India is looking to challenge that. It may also **moots (A)** the incompatibility with the UN's climate change **framework (B)** which **flag (C)** common but **differentiated (D)** responsibilities for developed and developing nations. But even if these arguments are **upheld**, these two _____(d)_____lack enforcement options.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

13. Starting this October, the European Union (EU) proposes to introduce a framework for levying a carbon tax on imports of products that rely _____(a)_____ non-green or sub-optimally sustainable processes and where carbon emissions are deemed to have not been adequately priced.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) In
- (ii) On
- (iii) By
- (iv) To

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

14. This Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will begin with an import monitoring mechanism and _____(b)_____ in the levy of duties as determined from January 2026.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Accommodate
- (ii) Culminate
- (iii) Ultimate
- (iv) Exacerbate

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iv) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

15. The EU argues that the CBAM will ensure its climate objectives are not _____(c)_____ by carbon-intensive imports and spur cleaner production in the rest of the world

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) Underlined
- (ii) Headline
- (iii) Undermined
- (iv) Sanguine

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

16. But even if these arguments are upheld, these two _____(d)_____ lack enforcement options.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Avenues
- (ii) Dialogue
- (iii) Pursue
- (iv) Plague

A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (iii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

17. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**

This pose a significant threat (A)/ to some of India's biggest exports (B)/ to the trading bloc, including iron ore and steel, (C)/ with carbon levies estimated to range from 19.8% to 52.7%.(D)/

A. (A)

- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error

18. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word.

Uphold

- (i) As a police officer you are expected to **uphold** the law whether you agree with it or not
- (ii) Judge Davis **upheld** the county court's decision.
- (iii) Her natural mother had **uphelded** her at an early age.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (i), (ii), (iii)

19. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

It may also **moots** (A) the incompatibility with the UN's climate change **framework** (B) which **flag** (C) common but **differentiated** (D) responsibilities for developed and developing nations.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. C – D
- D. A – C
- E. No arrangement

20. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

By last Thursday, top trade officials were more **assertive** (A) and termed tackling this **risk** (B) as one of the top items on the government's **agenda** (C), with several options being **explored** (D).

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. C – D
- D. A – C
- E. No arrangement

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- B) The passage clearly states that the GST Council's decision was to finalise a 28% GST levy on the face value of all bets placed in online games, casinos or horse-racing. This decision was met with considerable dismay from businesses involved in these industries.
- D) The passage mentions that the constitution of Appellate Tribunals and the clarification of tax treatments may provide industry with quicker redress of mounting GST litigations that are clogging up courts. Hence, the clarification of tax rates and classifications is expected to reduce the number of such litigations. Other options might be effects of the decision but are not explicitly mentioned in the passage as a result of the decision to clarify tax rates and classifications.
- C) (i) This statement is true. The passage begins by stating "Meeting after nearly five months, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council..."
 (ii) This statement is false. According to the passage, "With the appointment norms for tribunal members cleared, the Centre has given an assurance that the first set of tribunals should become operational in four to six months."
 (iii) This statement is true. The passage mentions that "The Council also granted tax exemptions, reduced or clarified some rates and regularised past incongruencies in tax payments on some items..."
- B) In the context of the passage, 'consternation' refers to a feeling of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected. Therefore, the synonym for 'consternation' is 'anguish', which means severe mental or physical pain or suffering.
- A) In the passage, 'exempting' refers to the act of freeing or excusing someone from a duty or obligation. Therefore, the antonym for 'exempting' is 'including', which refers to adding or incorporating someone or something into a group or category.
- D) RECEP Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian rule has entered its third decade with his victory in Turkiye's runoff presidential election.
- E) He has triumphed in what has been described by his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu as 'the most unfair election in years'.
- B) Kilicdaroglu had promised to put Turkiye on a more democratic path and improve relations with the West.
- C) The US and its allies were hoping that the tide would turn in their favour, but now they have no choice but to deal with Erdogan, who has proved to be a tough nut to crack for the West

STQRP

S: This is likely the starting sentence as it introduces the main character, Erdogan, and his victory in the election.

T: This statement elaborates on Erdogan's election victory mentioned in the sentence S. Here, the opposition voice from Kilicdaroglu is introduced.

Q: Sentence Q explains Kilicdaroglu's view and promises, which contrasts Erdogan's. It provides the reader context on what was promised by the opposition and what might have been if Kilicdaroglu had won. So, it naturally follows T.

R: R details the international implications of Erdogan's victory, and the West's challenges. After understanding Kilicdaroglu's stance (pro-Western), it's clear why the West hoped for a different outcome. Therefore, R follows Q.

P: Finally, P expands on Erdogan's stance towards international politics, specifically his relationship with Russia. This paragraph also provides additional reasoning for the West's disappointment (R), therefore P follows R

10. A.) **EABCD**

The erudite linguist expatiated on the esoteric tenets of epistemology and ontology, elucidating the intricate nuances of their interplay in the realm of metaphysical inquiry.

11. **(B)** 'alleged' के बदले 'was alleged' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'actor' पर 'दोषारोपण' किया गया; अर्थात 'actor' Passive Subject है और चूंकि वाक्य Past Tense में है अतः 'actor' के लिए 'Be' क्रिया का 'was' रूप प्रयोग में लाना पड़ेगा।

- 'was alleged' will be used instead of 'alleged' because 'actor' was 'accused'; That is, 'actor' is the Passive Subject and since the sentence is in the Past Tense, the 'was' form of the verb 'Be' has to be used for 'actor'.

12. **(D)** 'undergoes' के बदले 'undergo' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'could' एक Modal है और किसी भी Modal के साथ V1 का प्रयोग होता है।

- 'undergo' will be used instead of 'undergoes' because 'could' is a modal and V1 is used with any modal.

13. **B) Rely on** (phrasal verb) – count on, trust in, lean on निर्भर होना

The preposition "on" in this context implies dependence or reliance. Hence, "products that rely on non-green or sub-optimally sustainable processes" would be the most grammatically accurate option. "In", "by", and "to" do not convey the correct meaning of dependence in this context.

14. **B) Culminate** (verb) – climax, reach a climax, peak शिखर पर पहुँचना

The verb "culminate" is used to describe reaching a high point or climactic stage, as in "will begin with an import monitoring mechanism and culminate in the levy of duties."

- **Accommodate** (verb) – to provide space or make adjustments for समायोजन करना
- **Ultimate** (adjective) – Final, eventual, conclusive, decisive, supreme अंतिम
- **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, intensify, amplify बढ़ाना

15. **C) Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, dent, destabilise, undercut, damage कमजोर होना

The verb "**undermined**" is used in the context of weakening or damaging something (especially gradually or insidiously). The EU does not want its climate objectives to be weakened by carbon-intensive imports.

- **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, underscore जोर देना
- **Headline** (adjective) – Main, chief, principal, leading, primary प्रमुख
- **Sanguine** (adjective) – Optimistic, Positive, Hopeful, Upbeat, Bullish आशावादी

16. **A) Avenue** (noun) – approach, strategy, tactic, method मार्ग

- **Dialogue** (noun) – Conversation, discussion, discourse, interchange, consultation संवाद
- **Pursue** (verb) – Chase, follow, seek, strive for, work towards, अनुसरण करना
- **Plague** (verb) – Afflict, trouble, torment, harass, beset, सताना

17. The verb must agree with the subject in number and person. When the subject is singular, the verb form must be singular as well. In this sentence, "**this**" is a **singular pronoun**, so it should be followed by the singular form of the verb "**pose**", which is "**poses**".

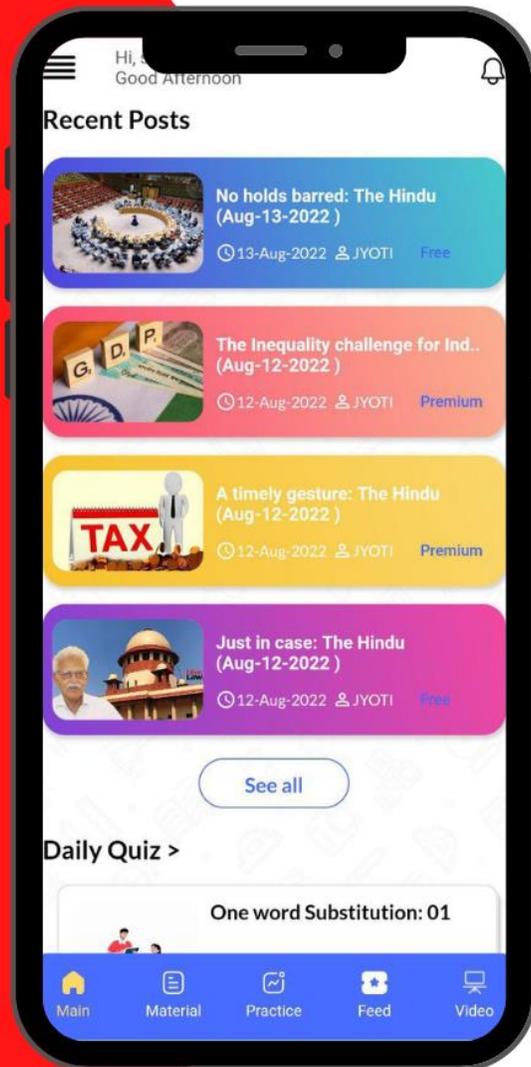
18. **Uphold** (verb) – support, maintain, defend, sustain समर्थन करना

According to the given options only (i) and (ii) are contextually correct.

Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like Her natural mother had **abandoned** her at an early age

19. It may also flag the incompatibility with the UN's climate change framework which moots common but differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing nations.

20. By last Thursday, top trade officials were more assertive and termed tackling this risk as one of the top items on the government's agenda , with several options being explored



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