

Something special: On 25 years of the India-France strategic partnership

India's relationship with France is **uniquely** different from other **ties**

Celebrating 25 years of the India-France **strategic** partnership **was** at the top of the **agenda** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to France and his meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron last week, which ended with a number of agreements and a **slew** of defence deals. Mr. Modi's **visit**, just months before Mr. Macron is in Delhi for the G-20 summit, **was** a special one, as he was invited to be the chief guest at the Bastille Day parade — it saw Indian **tri-service** participation — and was the second time that an Indian Prime Minister has been **extended** the invitation (Manmohan Singh was the first in 2009). **Chief** among the agreements **was** the strategic **road map** for the next 25 years — “**Horizon 2047**” — which includes cooperation in defence, space, nuclear energy, climate change and **green transitions** as well as education and people-to-people ties. Another road map was released on how to cooperate further in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes military and **naval** exchanges and a **trilateral** development fund to help countries in the region. There were also the decisions, **in principle**, to buy 26 more Rafale fighter jets **off-the-shelf** (Rafale-M), this time for the Indian Navy; three more Scorpene **submarines** in continuation to the purchases of 2008, and an agreement between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safran for helicopter engines.

In the broader picture, the France-India strategic relationship is built on a respect for each other's **strategic autonomy**. France has remained **steadfast** in its **refusal** to comment on India's internal affairs or its foreign policy choices. While France has taken a leading role in the **western pushback** to Russia's war in Ukraine, it has not joined other western countries in publicly **exhorting** India to change its **stand**. In 1974, and in 1998, France did not join the western **push** to **sanction** India for its nuclear tests either; it even **stepped in** with uranium supplies to power the Tarapur reactors. Mr. Modi's visit was also at around the same time that the European Parliament decided to adopt a **resolution criticising** his government for the violence in Manipur and **alleged violations** of human rights and freedom of religion issues. Yet, none of these issues was discussed or **brought up**. India too, made no mention of the violence in France after the killing of a **teenager** belonging to the Algerian **immigrant** community. Further, neither country has any desire to pull the other into a **coalition**, grouping or **alliance** the other is a part of, and both seem **content** with the success in **forging** the relationship **bilaterally**. In this and many other ways, their relationship has proven itself to be different from the other major partnerships that India has built across the world, explaining both the **symbolism** and the **substance** of the Prime Minister's visit. [Practice Exercise]

- **Make no mention of** (phrase) – to say nothing about (something or someone) का कोई उल्लेख न करना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Uniquely** (adverb) – Exclusively, individually, exceptionally विशिष्ट रूप से
2. **Ties** (noun) – connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध
3. **Strategic** (adjective) – deliberate, planned, calculated, tactical, systematic योजनाबद्ध
4. **Agenda** (noun) – a list of items to be discussed at a formal meeting. कार्यसूची
5. **Slew** (noun) – multitude, large number, abundance, host, mass बड़ी संख्या में
6. **Tri-service** (adjective) – Pertaining to something involving all three branches of a country's armed forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force). This term does not have an equivalent Hindi translation but is understood in its English form in military context in India.
7. **Extend** (verb) – offer, propose, give, provide प्रस्तुत करना
8. **Road map** (noun) – plan, strategy, guideline, blueprint योजनापत्र
9. **Horizon 2047** (noun) – This term is specific to the India-France strategic partnership, referring to their strategic road map for the next 25 years from 2023. It does not have a Hindi translation.
10. **Green transition** (noun) – the process of changing from an economy reliant on fossil fuels to one that is sustainable and environmentally friendly
11. **Naval** (adjective) – maritime, marine, nautical, sea-going, seafaring नौसेना संबंधी
12. **Trilateral** (adjective) – three-sided, triangular, involving three parties or countries त्रिपक्षीय
13. **In principle** (phrase) – fundamentally, basically, essentially, in essence मूल रूप से
14. **Off-the-shelf** (phrase) – not designed or made to order but taken from existing stock or supplies. पहले से तैयार; स्टॉक वस्तु के रूप में उपलब्ध
15. **Submarine** (noun) – a ship that can travel underwater पनडुब्बी
16. **Strategic** (adjective) – relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage. सामरिक
17. **Autonomy** (noun) – self-governance, independence, sovereignty, freedom स्वशासन
18. **Steadfast** (adjective) – unswerving, unwavering, resolute, loyal दृढ़निश्चयी
19. **Refusal** (noun) – Denial, rejection, negation, rebuttal, rebuff इनकार
20. **Western** (adjective) – Relating to U.S.A and other European countries
21. **Pushback** (noun) – resistance, opposition, refusal to accept प्रतिरोध

22. **Exhort** (verb) – urge, encourage, call on, press, insist, spur अनुरोध करना
23. **Stand** (noun) – viewpoint, perspective, position, standpoint रुख
24. **Push** (noun) – drive, thrust, impulse, effort प्रयत्न
25. **Sanction** (noun) – penalty, punishment, deterrent, restriction, ban, injunction प्रतिबंध
26. **Step in** (phrasal verb) – intervene, intercede, become involved हस्तक्षेप करना
27. **Resolution** (noun) – Motion, proposal, proposition, ruling, verdict प्रस्ताव
28. **Criticise** (verb) – condemn, attack, censure, denounce आलोचना करना
29. **Alleged** (adjective) – supposed, claimed, professed, purported कथित
30. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, contravention, transgression उल्लंघन
31. **Bring up** (phrasal verb) – mention, raise, introduce, broach चर्चा में लाना
32. **Teenager** (noun) – adolescent, youth, minor किशोर
33. **Immigrant** (noun) – a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. आप्रवासी
34. **Coalition** (noun) – alliance, union, partnership, league गठबंधन
35. **Alliance** (noun) – association, union, partnership, affiliation संघ
36. **Content** (noun) – satisfied, pleased, gratified, fulfilled संतुष्ट
37. **Forge** (verb) – create, build, construct, form निर्माण करना
38. **Bilaterally** (adverb) – involving two groups or countries; mutually द्विपक्षीय रूप से
39. **Symbolism** (noun) – representation, metaphor, allegory प्रतीकवाद
40. **Substance** (noun) – essence, reality, actuality, matter; the quality of being important, valid, or significant. अर्थ, सार

Summary of the Editorial

1. India and France celebrated 25 years of their strategic partnership during PM Narendra Modi's visit to France.
2. Modi met French President Emmanuel Macron and several agreements and defence deals were finalized.
3. Modi was invited as the chief guest for the Bastille Day parade, marking only the second time an Indian Prime Minister received this honor.
4. A strategic roadmap titled "Horizon 2047" was agreed upon, outlining cooperation in defence, space, nuclear energy, climate change, and green transitions, along with education and people-to-people ties.
5. A separate roadmap was presented for collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, encompassing military and naval exchanges and a trilateral development fund to aid regional countries.
6. There were decisions to procure 26 more Rafale fighter jets and three more Scorpene submarines for the Indian Navy.
7. A deal was struck between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safran for helicopter engines.
8. The India-France relationship is built on mutual respect for each other's strategic autonomy.
9. France refrains from commenting on India's internal affairs and foreign policy choices.
10. During the Russia-Ukraine crisis, France did not pressure India to change its stance, highlighting its respect for India's independent decision-making.
11. France has supported India during international challenges, for instance, by supplying uranium for India's reactors following the 1974 and 1998 nuclear tests.
12. During Modi's visit, controversial topics like violence in Manipur and alleged human rights violations in India were not raised, demonstrating the respect for internal affairs in the relationship.
13. Similarly, India did not mention the incident of violence in France against the Algerian immigrant community.
14. Neither India nor France attempt to involve the other in their respective alliances, showing the bilateral nature of the relationship.
15. The unique characteristics of the India-France relationship, including mutual respect and a non-interfering stance, make it distinct from other international partnerships that India maintains.

Practice Exercise: Banking Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about the India-France strategic partnership EXCEPT that:** [Editorial page]
 - A. India and France celebrated 25 years of strategic partnership with numerous agreements and defense deals.
 - B. France has consistently remained silent about India's internal affairs and foreign policy choices.
 - C. The partnership has a strategic roadmap, "Horizon 2047," which covers various areas including defense, space, nuclear energy, and climate change.
 - D. France has publicly urged India to change its stance on the Russian war in Ukraine.
 - E. Both countries are content with the success of their relationship and do not want to pull each other into any groupings or alliances.
2. **Which of the following best summarizes the author's position on the India-France strategic partnership?**
 - A. The India-France strategic partnership is heavily dependent on defense deals and arms trades.
 - B. France often pressures India to conform to its foreign policy stances, particularly regarding Russia.
 - C. The partnership is built on mutual respect for each other's strategic autonomy and is free from outside influences.
 - D. The success of the India-France strategic partnership is based on both countries' involvement in various alliances and groupings.
 - E. The partnership between India and France revolves primarily around issues of human rights and religious freedoms.
3. **What key aspect distinguishes the India-France strategic relationship from India's ties with other countries?**
 - A. India and France have a 25-year strategic partnership.
 - B. France has joined other western countries in pressuring India to change its stand.
 - C. France and India respect each other's strategic autonomy and refrain from commenting on each other's internal affairs.
 - D. France and India frequently discuss human rights and religious freedom issues.
 - E. India has purchased defense equipment from France.
4. **What is the tone of the passage above?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Humorous
 - C. Pessimistic
 - D. Neutral
 - E. Optimistic
5. **What is the main theme of the passage above?**
 - A. The militaristic prowess of India and France.
 - B. The strategic autonomy of India and Russia.

- C. The economic implications of the India-France strategic partnership.
- D. The uniqueness of the India-France strategic partnership.
- E. The diplomatic failures between India and France.

Direction (Q6 – Q8): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

- 6. Mammoths were a (A)/ species of elephants (B)/ who lived millions of year ago (C)/ but are now extinct. (D)/ no error(E)
- 7. The sink is (A)/ so dirty that (B)/ one needs a very strong (C)/abrasive to cleaning it(D)./ no error(E)
- 8. The talks ended (A)/ abruptly when one of (B)/ the delegate walked (C)/ out in protest. (D)/ no error(E)

Directions (Q9 – Q12): 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. Though there were expectations of another cut in the repo rate — the rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks in case of a shortfall of funds — the Monetary Policy Committee has cautiously left it unchanged at 4 per cent.
 - Q. Amid the uncertainty over reviving growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks to go for one-time restructuring of loans of corporate and retail borrowers who are facing stress due to the coronavirus crisis.
 - R. Indian economy has been battered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown that continues in several states nearly five months after it was first imposed nationwide.
 - S. Some rating agencies have forecast that the country's
 - T. GDP will shrink by as high as 10 per cent in the ongoing financial year, revising their earlier estimate of a contraction of 5 per cent.
- 9. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
 - 10. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
 - 11. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)

E. (T)

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

A. (P)

B. (Q)

C. (R)

D. (S)

E. (T)

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

In the brutal heatwave beating down on Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, one district in U.P., Ballia, reported the most deaths. The medical superintendent at the local government hospital _____(a)_____ reportedly transferred after ascribing the deaths to the heat, followed by a visit by a State-appointed team to assess the local conditions. A member later tell journalists that(A)/ the team had expressed(B)/ its doubts about the heat being a factor since (C)/the toll due to the same heatwave was lower in districts nearby.(D)/ The member's statement is a timely reminder that a heatwave is only half heat, the other being bad public infrastructure and social security. Ballia's toll could be high because of, as the team suspects, _____(b)_____ water, or because the local people could not cool themselves. Heat's deadliness depends on an individual's general well-being, acclimatisation, physical **exertion**, comorbidities, location, relative humidity, and extent of heat exposure. But for all the complexity the **augurs(A)** of these factors **interplay(B)**, the fight against this mode of the climate crisis, which India is expected to **suffer(C)** more often, can benefit considerably from some **literacy(D)** and access to resources. Literacy needs to be rooted _____(c)_____ a simple fact: heat is deadly when our bodies are unable to shed it as quickly as it accumulates. This can happen due to poor living conditions, adherence to caste- and gender-based strictures, or even in overcrowded hospitals. _____(d)_____ that can help include access to drinking water, indoor ventilation, health care, regular work breaks, and protections against wage loss. If a person dies in a heatwave, it is only fair to ask whether he/she was able to access these amenities.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

13. The medical superintendent at the local government hospital _____(a)_____ reportedly transferred after ascribing the deaths to the heat, followed by a visit by a State-appointed team to assess the local conditions.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

(i) Are

(ii) Is

(iii) Was

(iv) Were

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

14. Ballia's toll could be high because of, as the team suspects, _____(b)_____ water, or because the local people could not cool themselves.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Propagated
 - (ii) Polluted
 - (iii) Debunked
 - (iv) Contaminated
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iv) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

15. Literacy needs to be rooted _____(c)_____ a simple fact: heat is deadly when our bodies are unable to shed it as quickly as it accumulates.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) In
 - (ii) Out
 - (iii) For
 - (iv) To
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

16. _____(d)_____ that can help include access to drinking water, indoor ventilation, health care, regular work breaks, and protections against wage loss.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Discomforts
 - (ii) Anxieties
 - (iii) Aches
 - (iv) Amenities
- 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.**

A member later tell journalists that **(A)**/ the team had expressed **(B)**/ its doubts about the heat being a factor since **(C)**/ the toll due to the same heatwave was lower in districts nearby.**(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. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

Exertion

- (i) Rushing strings and fanfares in the brass compete with the ever more excited and strenuous **exertions** of the singers.
- (ii) I know we are making unparalleled **exertions** to organise our strength and to put it into the field.
- (iii) Such an eye for the **exertions** of warp and woof, not just whole cloth, does two things

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

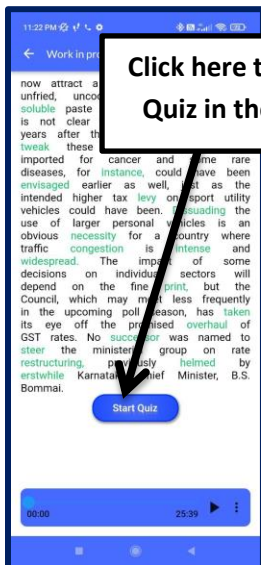
But for all the complexity the **augurs(A)** of these factors **interplay(B)**, the fight against this mode of the climate crisis, which India is expected to **suffer(C)** more often, can benefit considerably from some **literacy(D)** and access to resources.

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

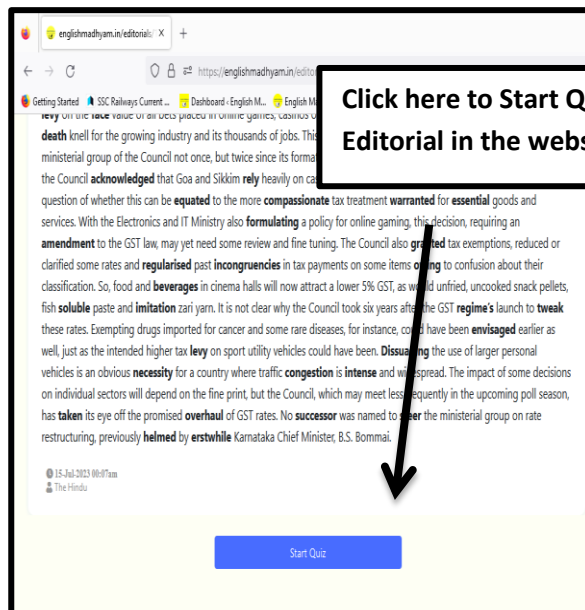
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Refrain from interfering _____ the course of justice.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. With
- D. To
- E. None of the above



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Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

- D) France has publicly urged India to change its stance on the Russian war in Ukraine.**
 As per the passage, it is clear that while France has played a leading role in the western pushback to Russia's war in Ukraine, it has not joined other western countries in publicly urging India to change its stand. Therefore, option D is incorrect and it is not a true statement about the India-France strategic partnership.
- C) The partnership is built on mutual respect for each other's strategic autonomy and is free from outside influences.**
 The passage discusses the 25 years of the strategic partnership between India and France, highlighting its unique qualities. The author emphasizes the mutual respect for each other's strategic autonomy, evidenced by France's refusal to comment on India's internal affairs or foreign policy choices and vice versa. Also, neither country has tried to pull the other into their alliances or groupings, focusing instead on building their bilateral ties. These points align with option C, making it the best summary of the author's position on the subject.
- C) The passage clearly mentions, "the France-India strategic relationship is built on a respect for each other's strategic autonomy. France has remained steadfast in its refusal to comment on India's internal affairs or its foreign policy choices." This point distinguishes the relationship between these two countries from India's ties with other nations.
 Although options A and E are correct statements based on the passage, they don't distinguish the India-France relationship from India's relationships with other countries. Options B and D are incorrect according to the passage.
- D) The tone of the passage is Neutral. The author reports on the India-France strategic partnership and the history of their relationship without adding personal emotion or bias. The author does not criticize or praise either country; instead, they merely present the facts of the situation.
- D) The main theme of the passage is the uniqueness of the India-France strategic partnership. The author talks about the history of their relationship, the deals and agreements they've made, and how each country respects the other's autonomy. The author also emphasizes that their relationship is different from others that India has with other countries.
- (C) 'Who' के बदले 'which' या 'that' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'who' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः 'human beings, God, angel, fairy' के लिए होता है और अन्य प्राणियों या निर्जीव पदार्थ के लिए 'which' या 'that' का।

 - 'who' or 'that' shall be used instead of 'who' as 'who' is commonly used for 'humans, God, angel, fairy' and 'what' or 'that' is used for other beings or inanimate terms.
- (D) 'to cleaning' के बदले 'to clean' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि infinitive के रूप में to + v1 का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- (i) I wanted to go home.
- 'to clean' will be used instead of 'to clean' as to + v1 is used as infinitive; As in –
(i) I wanted to go home.
8. (C) 'delegate' के बदले 'delegates' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'one of, each of, either of, neither of, any one of, every one of' के बाद आनेवाला Noun हमेशा Countable तथा Plural होता है; जैसे-
- (i) One of the boys.
 - (ii) Each of the girls.
- 'delegates' will be substituted for 'delegate' because the noun that comes after 'one of, each of, either of, none of, any one of, every one of's' is always countable and plural; such as-
(i) One of the boys
(ii) Each of the girls.
9. **C) RSTQP**
R: This sentence sets the context of the situation which is the Indian economy being battered by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. Hence, it is a good starting point for the paragraph.
10. **D)**
S: This sentence introduces the subject of the economic forecasts.
11. E) T: It logically continues from sentence S, providing the detailed forecast of the GDP contraction.
12. B) Q: Based on the situation outlined in sentences RST, this sentence provides a measure the Reserve Bank of India is taking to cope with the economic stress.
P: This is a good conclusion to the passage, as it provides an additional detail of RBI's policy decision in light of the aforementioned economic situation.
13. C.) Only (iii). The verb that fits correctly in the blank (a) is "was". This is because "The medical superintendent" is a third-person singular subject, so the verb should also be in third-person singular form, which is "was". Other options (i) "are", (ii) "is", and (iv) "were" are grammatically incorrect because they do not agree in number with the subject.
- Only (iii) ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि "The medical superintendent" एक third-person singular subject है, इसलिए verb भी third-person singular रूप में होनी चाहिए, जो कि was है। अन्य विकल्प (i) are, (ii) 'is', और (iv) 'were' grammatically गलत हैं क्योंकि वे subject के साथ number में सहमत नहीं हैं।
14. D.) Both (ii) and (iv). Both options "polluted" and "contaminated" are appropriate to use in this context as they convey a similar meaning. Both these words imply that the water is not clean or safe for use. Options (i) "Propagated" and (iii) "Debunked" are not suitable as they do not fit in this context.
- इस संदर्भ में polluted और contaminated दोनों options का उपयोग करना उचित है क्योंकि वे एक similar meaning व्यक्त करते हैं। इन दोनों शब्दों का अर्थ यह है कि पानी साफ या उपयोग के लिए

सुरक्षित नहीं है। Options (i) ' Debunked प्रचारित' और (iii) ' Debunked बहिष्कृत' उपयुक्त नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे इस context में फिट नहीं बैठते हैं।

15. A.) Only (i). In the context of the sentence, "Literacy needs to be rooted in a simple fact," the preposition "in" is the most grammatically appropriate choice. Options (ii) "Out", (iii) "For" and (iv) "To" are not suitable in this context.

➤ sentence के context में, "Literacy needs to be rooted in a simple fact," preposition in grammatically रूप से उपयुक्त Option है। Option (ii) out, (iii) for और (iv) to इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

16. B.) Only (iv). In this context, the noun "amenities" fits correctly. It refers to useful features, services, or facilities that can be used to improve a situation or someone's well-being. Options (i) "Discomforts", (ii) "Anxieties", and (iii) "Aches" do not fit into this context since they refer to negative states or conditions, not something that can be of help.

➤ इस संदर्भ में, amenities noun सही ढंग से फिट बैठती है। यह useful features, , services, or facilities को संदर्भित करता है जिनका उपयोग किसी स्थिति या किसी की भलाई को बेहतर बनाने के लिए किया जा सकता है। विकल्प (i) ' Discomforts असुविधाएँ', (ii) ' Anxieties चिंताएँ', और (iii) ' Aches दर्द' इस context में फिट नहीं बैठते हैं क्योंकि वे negative states or conditions को संदर्भित करते हैं, न कि ऐसी चीज़ जो मददगार हो सकती है।

17. (A). The verb "tell" should be in the past tense "told" to agree with the past tense context of the sentence.

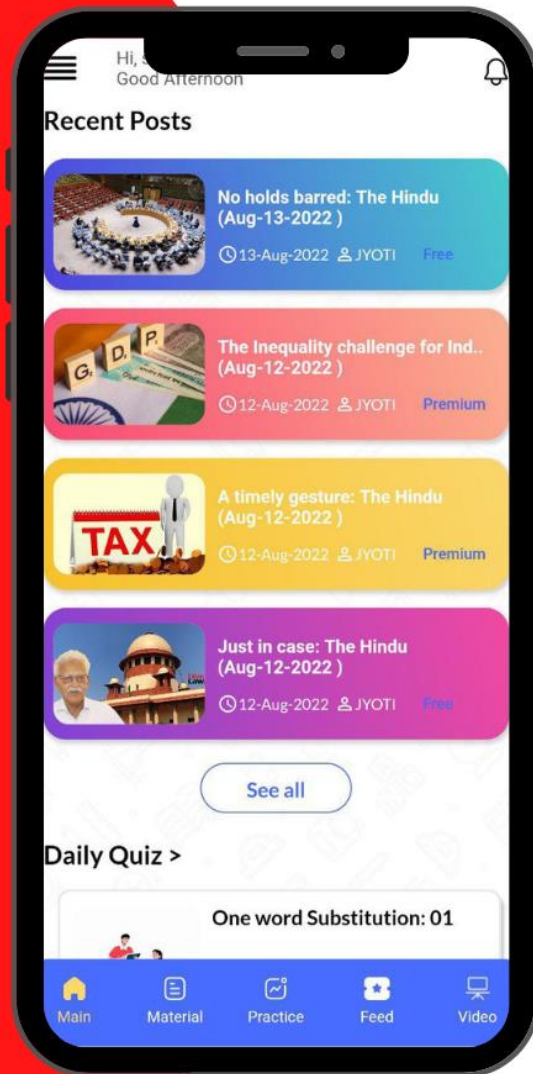
➤ 'Tell' को 'Told' में बदलना चाहिए। क्योंकि sentence के अनुसार, verb का काल past tense में होना चाहिए।

18. **D) Exertion** (noun) – Effort, struggle, endeavour मेहनत, परिश्रम

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 Such an eye for the intricacies of warp and woof, not just whole cloth, does two things

19. B) But for all the complexity the interplay of these factors augurs, the fight against this mode of the climate crisis, which India is expected to suffer more often, can benefit considerably from some literacy and access to resources.



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