

Still incomplete: on India-Sri Lanka ties and their vision

India's **ties** with Sri Lanka **are bound** by the Tamil question

With a joint statement on economic cooperation, India and Sri Lanka **outlined** a **forward-looking** vision for their relations. The **statement**, **entitled** "Promoting Connectivity, **Catalysing Prosperity: India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision**", released after **talks** between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe in Delhi last week, **lays out** the vision in five areas: **maritime**, air, energy, trade and people-to-people initiatives. New **investments** in maritime and air connectivity **will** involve developing ports and airports in Sri Lanka, **resuming ferry** services and **expanding** flight networks to connect Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern **Provinces**. A major **surge** in energy connectivity will include developing **renewable energy** wind and solar plants in Sri Lanka. Both hope to increase trade, and continue Indian support for Sri Lanka's economy that **crashed** last year and is slowly **working out** its **debt restructuring** process. A **memorandum of understanding** was signed to **operationalise** UPI digital payments in Sri Lanka and to **designate** the Indian Rupee as currency for trade. They also agreed to **explore** ways of **enhancing** tourism and cultural and religious travel, and educational **collaboration**.

While the vision statement **revealed** a **comprehensive** plan for the future, what it lacked was **conspicuous**: **none** of the written documents **released** during Mr. Wickremesinghe's visit **acknowledged** previous **commitments** by Sri Lanka on **honouring** the 13A constitutional **amendment** for **devolution** of powers to the North and Eastern provinces, and for **resolving** the long-pending issues over arrest of Indian fishers. It was left to Mr. Modi to make a sharp appeal in his speech for devolution and the conduct of Provincial Council elections, and he **emphasised** the need to ensure a "life of respect and **dignity**" for the Sri Lankan Tamil community. In Colombo, the **ruling SLPP** that provides support for President Wickremesinghe **made it clear** that his government lacks the "electoral **mandate**" to discuss these issues, for long the cause of tensions between India and Sri Lanka. **The fact** that neither Mr. Wickremesinghe's comments in Delhi, nor the joint statement referred to such **crucial** issues **may** be the bigger message from the meeting: that despite Sri Lanka's other dependencies on New Delhi, the Indian government is no longer welcome to bring its historical concerns over the Tamil issue into **bilateral negotiations**. **Regardless of** the strong familial bonds between India and Sri Lanka, history has **tripped up** ties in the past, and **any vision** for the future that does not include an **amicable resolution** of these issues **will** be considered incomplete. **[Practice]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Ties** (noun) – Connections, bonds, links, relations, associations संबंध
2. **Bound** (adjective) – Obligated, compelled, required, constrained, duty-bound से बंधे होना
3. **Outline** (verb) – Describe, sketch, detail, delineate, draft रूपरेखा तैयार करना
4. **Forward-looking** (adjective) – Progressive, visionary, futuristic, advanced, modernistic दूरदेशी
5. **Entitle** (verb) – give (something) a particular title. नाम रखना
6. **Catalyse** (verb) – Accelerate, stimulate, spark, trigger, activate प्रेरित करना
7. **Prosperity** (noun) – Wealth, affluence, richness, success, well-being समृद्धि
8. **Talk** (noun) – Discussion, conversation, chat, discourse, dialogue वार्ता
9. **Lay out** (phrasal verb) – Arrange, design, plan, organize, display; explain something clearly and carefully. प्रदर्शित करना
10. **Maritime** (adjective) – Nautical, naval, seafaring, marine, aquatic समुद्री
11. **Resume** (verb) – Restart, continue, recommence, return to, pick up पुनः आरंभ करना
12. **Ferry** (noun) – Boat, vessel, ship, watercraft, shuttle नाव
13. **Expand** (verb) – Extend, enlarge, spread, broaden, widen विस्तारित करना
14. **Province** (noun) – Region, territory, state, district, area प्रदेश
15. **Surge** (noun) – Increase, rise, boost, upswing, growth वृद्धि
16. **Renewable energy** (noun) – energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed.
17. **Crash** (verb) – Collapse, plummet, drop, fall sharply एकाएक गिरना
18. **Work out** (phrasal verb) – to develop or progress, especially in a good way विकसित करना
19. **Debt restructuring** (noun) – a process used by companies, individuals, and countries to change the the terms on loans to make them easier to pay back.
20. **Memorandum of understanding** (noun) – Agreement, contract, accord, arrangement समझौता-नामा
21. **Operationalise** (verb) – Implement, execute, put into action, enact क्रियान्वित करना
22. **Designate** (verb) – officially give a specified status or name to नामित करना

23. **Explore** (verb) – Investigate, examine, study, probe, research पता लगाना
24. **Enhance** (verb) – Improve, augment, boost, elevate, magnify बढ़ाना
25. **Collaboration** (noun) – Partnership, cooperation, alliance, joint effort सहयोग
26. **Reveal** (verb) – Disclose, unveil, show, expose, divulge प्रकट करना
27. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Thorough, all-inclusive, complete, exhaustive व्यापक
28. **Conspicuous** (adjective) – very noticeable or attracting attention सुस्पष्ट
29. **Acknowledge** (verb) – Recognize, admit, accept, confess स्वीकार करना
30. **Commitment** (noun) – Dedication, obligation, responsibility, pledge प्रतिबद्धता
31. **Honour** (verb) – To honour a promise or agreement is to do what you said you would
32. **Amendment** (noun) – Modification, change, alteration, revision संशोधन
33. **Devolution** (noun) – Delegation, transfer, handing over, passing down अधिकार हस्तांतरण
34. **Resolve** (verb) – Solve, settle, sort out, work out, समाधान करना
35. **Emphasise** (verb) – Highlight, stress, accentuate, underline, underscore जोर देना
36. **Dignity** (noun) – Respect, esteem, honour, worthiness गरिमा
37. **Ruling** (adjective) – Dominant, governing, reigning, controlling सत्तारूढ़
38. **Make clear** (phrase) – Clarify, explain, elucidate, illuminate स्पष्ट करना
39. **Mandate** (noun) – the authority granted to a political leader or party, as a result of the victory in an election जनादेश
40. **Crucial** (adjective) – Critical, vital, essential, significant महत्वपूर्ण
41. **Bilateral** (adjective) – involving two parties, especially countries. द्विपक्षीय
42. **Negotiation** (noun) – Discussion, dialogue, talks, parley वार्ता
43. **Regardless of** (phrase) – Despite, irrespective of, no matter बिना ध्यान दिए, भले ही
44. **Trip up** (phrasal verb) – To stumble or fall; To make a mistake लड़खड़ाना
45. **Amicable** (adjective) – Friendly, cordial, harmonious, congenial मैत्रीपूर्ण
46. **Resolution** (noun) – Solution, answer, end, upshot, outcome समाधान

Summary of the Editorial

1. India and Sri Lanka released a joint statement on future economic cooperation.
2. This vision focuses on five areas: maritime, air, energy, trade, and people-to-people initiatives.
3. Plans include developing ports and airports in Sri Lanka to enhance maritime and air connectivity.
4. Ferry services will be resumed and flight networks expanded between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces.
5. There's an emphasis on enhancing energy ties by developing renewable energy plants in Sri Lanka.
6. The countries are keen to boost trade, especially since Sri Lanka's economy struggled last year.
7. India will continue supporting Sri Lanka in its debt restructuring process.
8. A memorandum was signed to implement UPI digital payments in Sri Lanka and set the Indian Rupee as the trade currency.
9. They plan to boost tourism, cultural and religious travel, and academic collaboration.
10. The vision missed out on acknowledging Sri Lanka's previous commitments related to the 13A constitutional amendment and the issues about the arrest of Indian fishers.
11. PM Narendra Modi stressed the importance of power devolution and conducting Provincial Council elections in Sri Lanka.
12. Modi also highlighted the need for respect and dignity for the Sri Lankan Tamil community.
13. The ruling party in Sri Lanka clarified they don't have an "electoral mandate" to discuss such sensitive topics, which have been long-standing tension points.
14. Neither the Sri Lankan president's comments nor the joint statement addressed these crucial issues.
15. Despite the progress, unresolved historical concerns, particularly the Tamil issue, could continue to affect India-Sri Lanka ties.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following can be inferred from the joint statement on economic cooperation between India and Sri Lanka?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The statement primarily focuses on the political ties between India and Sri Lanka.
 - B. The key areas of the vision include maritime, air, energy, trade and people-to-people initiatives.
 - C. The joint statement was released in Sri Lanka after talks between the two leaders.
 - D. The primary focus of the statement was on the maritime connectivity and trade.
2. **Which of the following statements regarding the initiatives between India and Sri Lanka is true based on the passage?**
 - A. India and Sri Lanka are developing only maritime connectivity.
 - B. Only Sri Lanka is working on debt restructuring after their economy crashed.
 - C. The Indian Rupee was designated as the official currency of Sri Lanka.
 - D. They have considered enhancing tourism, cultural, religious travel, and educational collaboration.
3. **What tone does the passage predominantly convey regarding the India-Sri Lanka relationship?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Critical
 - D. Indifferent
4. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements best captures the author's perspective on the recent joint vision statement released by India and Sri Lanka?**
 - A. The joint statement focuses on the importance of strengthening the cultural and historical ties between India and Sri Lanka, particularly around the Tamil community.
 - B. The joint statement clearly outlines economic cooperation and promises a brighter future for both countries without any lacunae.
 - C. While the joint statement paints a comprehensive picture of economic and infrastructural cooperation, it notably omits important historical issues between the two countries, making the vision appear incomplete.
 - D. The joint statement's focus on economic matters reveals that India and Sri Lanka are moving away from their past and are more interested in economic collaborations than addressing longstanding issues.
5. Based on the given passage, "Regardless of the strong familial bonds between India and Sri Lanka, history has tripped up ties in the past, and any vision for the future that does not include an amicable resolution of these issues will be considered incomplete." Here, 'amicable' means all of the following EXCEPT:
 - A. Friendly
 - B. Hostile
 - C. Peaceful
 - D. Harmonious

6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
- A. Economic prosperity and bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.
 - B. India's increasing influence in the South Asian region.
 - C. The absence of acknowledgment of the Tamil issue in India-Sri Lanka bilateral talks.
 - D. The history of maritime and air connectivity between India and Sri Lanka.
7. Which word in the passage is synonymous with "**comprehensive**"?
- A. Conspicuous
 - B. Incomplete
 - C. All-encompassing
 - D. Limited
8. Which word is the antonym of "**acknowledged**" as used in the passage?
- A. Confirmed
 - B. Recognized
 - C. Ignored
 - D. Validated
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- An atmosphere of distrust that Pakistan has earned / the London-based advisory firm Henley & Partners' assessment indicates/owing to its act of supporting terrorists and /mismanagement of public affairs./**
- A. An atmosphere of distrust that Pakistan has earned owing to its act of supporting terrorists and the London-based advisory firm Henley & Partners' assessment indicates mismanagement of public affairs.
 - B. The London-based advisory firm Henley & Partners' assessment indicates owing to its act of supporting terrorists and an atmosphere of distrust that Pakistan has earned mismanagement of public affairs.
 - C. Owing to its act of supporting terrorists and mismanagement of public affairs an atmosphere of distrust that Pakistan has earned the London-based advisory firm Henley & Partners' assessment indicates.
 - D. The London-based advisory firm Henley & Partners' assessment indicates an atmosphere of distrust that Pakistan has earned owing to its act of supporting terrorists and mismanagement of public affairs.
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**
- Mark complains about his teaching job a lot, but I knew if he were offered a tenured position in the school, he would ***jump at the chance***
- A. To be less than the amount or standard that is needed or that you want
 - B. To place or rest something above or on top of something else
 - C. To accept or seize with alacrity an opportunity (to do something).
 - D. to pay attention to a situation carefully so that you can deal with any changes or problems

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. Having learnt a lesson from the earlier UN climate summit COP conferences where the West tended to be more assertive than the developing world, India has at the ongoing COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, been, and rightly so, vocal about the measures for combating the climate crisis.
 - A. Feeling the heat of the agreement signed at last year's Glasgow COP, India, though committed to the pact as it enhances its renewable energy sector, has realised that the developed countries have ducked their responsibility.
 - B. He laid emphasis on the phasing down — rather than phasing out — of all fossil fuels.
 - C. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav was categorical that no fuel be singled out in the fight against climate change.
 - D. This is evident from the baseless singling out of coal from among the fossil fuels as the villain of the piece in Glasgow.
 2. India was particularly projected in a bad light for its continued dependence on coal in around 50% of its power generation.
- A. ABCD B. CBAD C. CBDA D. ACBD

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

- P. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with a stimulus package that is part of a series to counter the ill-effects of the countrywide lockdown.
 - Q. The second component is raising Rs 50,000 crore for banks which in turn subscribe to bonds issued by corporates.
 - R. It has two components, including Rs 50,000 crore for NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) and NHB (National Housing Bank) for onward transmission to the ones who actually need succour — small, medium and tiny urban and rural units and micro finance institutions.
 - S. Having slipped up in raising the first tranche of Rs 75,000 crore in March when it did not specify any conditions, the RBI is now making sure that half the money goes only to the targeted beneficiaries and not to mega corporates and PSUs.
- A. QSRP B. SRQP C. SQPR D. PRQS

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

- P. But, given the past experience, India needs to mount pressure especially on the US, the UK, and Canada to curb Khalistani extremism.
 - Q. The Western powers dominating the world scene had protected Pakistan for long despite evidence of it aiding Khalistani terrorism in the Indian State of Punjab.
 - R. India is rightly exercising utmost seriousness in calling out the neglect of the Western world towards the Khalistani extremist sentiments against India being fomented from their land.
 - S. India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has summoned the Canadian envoy to India and issued a demarche.
- A. RPQS B. RSPQ C. SRQP D. SPRQ

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

- P. Data released by the National Statistical Office on Wednesday showed that retail inflation edged up to 4.8 per cent in June, after falling to a 20-month low of 4.3 per cent in May.
- Q. Over the course of the entire first quarter (April-June), inflation has averaged 4.6 per cent, in line with the Reserve Bank of India's forecast in the last monetary policy committee meeting.
- R. While this would suggest that the macroeconomic environment is keeping a fine balance, there are risks of it turning unfavourable in the months ahead on account of the rains.
- S. Alongside, data also shows that industrial production maintained its momentum. The index of industrial production rose by 5.2 per cent in May, up from 4.5 per cent the month before.

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

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

- P. The southwest monsoon had recorded 52.6 per cent rainfall deficiency during the first two weeks of the season that runs from June to September.
- Q. Only eastern India, Maharashtra and the South (barring Tamil Nadu) remain in the red zone, although the past one week and more have seen even many of these areas receive good showers.
- R. but also turning the cumulative deficiency into a 2.3 per cent surplus as on July 10.
- S. It has made remarkable progress since — not only covering the entire country by July 2 (six days before schedule),

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

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

- P. The BSE Midcap index is up by around 26 per cent over the past year, while the smallcap index has also seen similar gains.
- Q. Day to day fluctuations notwithstanding, the Indian stock market has had a healthy run over the past year.
- R. It is currently trading at a PE (price to earnings) ratio of around 24, broadly in line with its 10-year average. The exuberance is not just limited to the larger companies.
- S. The Sensex has recently crossed the 65,000-mark and is up 20 per cent over the past year.

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

Comprehension

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a package of schemes for farmers with a total ____1____ of Rs 3.7 lakh crore. According to the Union government, the schemes are aimed at boosting farmers' income, strengthening natural/organic farming, restoring soil health and ensuring food security. The focus is on promoting sustainable agriculture for the 'overall well-being and economic ____2____ of farmers'. The PM-PRANAM (Programme for Restoration, Awareness generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother earth) ____3____ incentivise states to promote alternative fertilisers and a balanced use of chemical fertilisers. The bulk of the package has been ____4____ for urea subsidy for three years (2022-23 to 2024-25).

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
 - A. Votary
 - B. Outlay
 - C. Efficacy
 - D. Leeway
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
 - A. Dissent
 - B. Betterment
 - C. Assessment
 - D. Amendment
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
 - A. Will
 - B. Are
 - C. Was
 - D. Were
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
 - A. Overlooked
 - B. Marked
 - C. Earmarked
 - D. Earmark

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) The key areas of the vision include maritime, air, energy, trade and people-to-people initiatives.**

The passage mentions that the joint statement titled "Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity: India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision" outlines their vision in five areas which are maritime, air, energy, trade, and people-to-people initiatives. Therefore, option B is the most accurate inference from the passage.

2. **D) They have considered enhancing tourism, cultural, religious travel, and educational collaboration.**

The passage mentions that both India and Sri Lanka have "agreed to explore ways of enhancing tourism and cultural and religious travel, and educational collaboration." Thus, option D is the most accurate representation of the details provided in the passage.

3. **C) Critical**

The tone of the passage is largely critical of the absence of discussions about the Tamil issue and past commitments in the vision statement. The usage of phrases like "what it lacked was conspicuous", "neither Mr. Wickremesinghe's comments in Delhi, nor the joint statement referred to such crucial issues", and the conclusion that any vision excluding these resolutions will be considered "incomplete" underscores this critical tone.

4. **C) While the joint statement paints a comprehensive picture of economic and infrastructural cooperation, it notably omits important historical issues between the two countries, making the vision appear incomplete.**

The passage mentions that the vision statement outlined various areas of cooperation between India and Sri Lanka but did not acknowledge previous commitments or long-standing issues, particularly around the Tamil question and the 13A constitutional amendment. The author highlights that any vision for the future that does not include resolution of these issues will be considered incomplete. Hence, option C best captures the essence of the author's perspective

5. **B) Hostile**

The term "**amicable**" in the context of the passage refers to a resolution that is agreeable or friendly in nature. Thus, its synonyms include friendly, peaceful, and harmonious. The term "hostile" is opposite in meaning to "amicable".

6. **C) The absence of acknowledgment of the Tamil issue in India-Sri Lanka bilateral talks.**

While the passage begins by highlighting the various areas of cooperation and economic partnership between the two nations, it emphasizes the absence of discussions related to the Tamil issue and past commitments. The writer critically points out that any future vision

without considering these issues will be seen as incomplete, which makes it a central theme of the passage.

7. C) The word "**comprehensive**" implies that something is thorough and includes all or nearly all elements or aspects. "**All-encompassing**" has a similar meaning, indicating that something is complete or covers everything.

Comprehensive (adjective) – inclusive, all-inclusive, all-encompassing, complete व्यापक
/विस्तृत

8. C) In the context of the passage, "acknowledged" means to accept, recognize, or admit the existence or truth of something. The opposite action would be to disregard or "ignore" it.
9. **D)** The London-based advisory firm Henley & Partners' assessment indicates an atmosphere of distrust that Pakistan has earned owing to its act of supporting terrorists and mismanagement of public affairs.

10. **C) Jump at the chance of** (Phrase) – To immediately accept an offer; to seize an opportunity
मौका का फायदा उठाना

11. **B) 1CBAD2**

1: This sentence introduces the topic and the setting - COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. It tells us that India has learned from past COP conferences and is now vocal about the climate crisis

C: The next sentence logically should be C, It provides a specific example of India's aforementioned vocal stance by highlighting the Environment Minister's statement that reflects this position.

B: The sentence B, is a continuation from sentence C and elaborates on Minister Bhupender Yadav's stance by detailing the specific focus he put on the approach towards fossil fuels

A: The sentence A, follows logically from B, as it provides further information on India's reaction to previous COP conferences, specifically Glasgow's. This also provides context on why India is taking such a stand.

D: The sentence D, follows A as it builds upon the previous idea of the developed countries avoiding responsibility and gives a specific example, the unfair blaming of coal.

2: The final sentence in the paragraph, this ties everything together by linking the general criticism of India's energy policies, particularly its reliance on coal, back to the actions at the Glasgow conference, which is a subject of the previous sentences.

12. **D) PRQS**

Option elimination method

Q doesn't provide any introduction about the stimulus package or its components. Hence, it cannot be the starting sentence.

S refers to a past event and then a corrective measure, indicating it's more of an explanatory or concluding statement and not an introductory one.

From the above analysis, it's clear that P introduces the RBI's actions, R explains the two components, Q explains the second component in detail, and S provides an overview of RBI's actions and the rationale behind its decisions. So, the order is PRQS.

13. **B) RSPQ**

R: This sentence sets up the context for the entire paragraph. It introduces the main topic, which is India's concern about the neglect from the Western world regarding Khalistani extremist sentiments. Hence, R is the starting sentence

S: Sentence S is connected to R because it provides a specific action taken by India, represented by Dr. S Jaishankar, in response to the neglect mentioned in R. Thus, S logically follows R.

P: After mentioning the specific action taken against Canada in S, sentence P broadens the scope to other Western nations. Hence, P logically comes after S.

Q: This sentence provides context and a possible reason for the need to apply pressure mentioned in sentence P. By mentioning how Western powers have protected Pakistan, it reinforces the idea that the Western nations may be neglecting or ignoring issues that concern India. Thus, Q logically follows P.

14. **D) PQSR**

P: Sentence P introduces us to the retail inflation data for June and its comparison to May. This establishes the context of the economic data which is a crucial introduction. Hence, P is the starting sentence.

Q: Sentence Q continues on the context set by P, by discussing the inflation average over the first quarter (April-June). Mentioning the data from the entire quarter, right after discussing specific data from June, is a logical continuation. It also connects the data to the Reserve Bank of India's forecast, providing a broader context. Therefore, Q follows P.

S: By using the term "Alongside," it shows that this data is supplementary to the inflation data, and serves as a side note or additional piece of information to the main context.

R: Sentence R hints at potential risks to the macroeconomic environment and brings in a factor (the rains) that could influence future scenarios. After discussing the data in P and Q, it is reasonable to discuss potential implications and future risks

15. **B) PSRQ**

P & S: Both these sentences talk about the southwest monsoon.

P talks about the deficiency in the rainfall during the first two weeks of the monsoon season.

S talks about the progress made by the monsoon after the first two weeks, by covering the entire country earlier than expected. This naturally follows the statement made in P, where the scenario in the first two weeks is presented.

S & R:

R continues to describe the remarkable progress made by the monsoon as mentioned in S.

R further emphasizes the turnaround by stating that the deficiency was not only covered but turned into a surplus.

R & Q:

While R gives a positive overall image of the monsoon, Q provides a slightly contrasting scenario by mentioning areas that are still experiencing deficiencies despite recent showers.

16. C) **QSRP**

Q: Sentence Q introduces the subject, which is the performance of the Indian stock market. This sentence sets the context of the discussion, which is about the Indian stock market's performance.

S: This is a continuation from Q, providing specifics on the performance of the Sensex over the past year.

R: The pronoun "It" likely refers to the Sensex. The introduction of PE (price to earnings) in this sentence provides an acronym/abbreviation clue.

P: P provides details on the performance of the BSE Midcap and smallcap indices, reinforcing the idea introduced in R.

17. **B) Outlay** (noun) – Expenditure, amount, cost, spending, disbursement लागत

'Outlay' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "outlay" का अर्थ होता है financial plan या खर्च की कुल राशि।

sentence में mention किया गया है कि Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs ने किसी योजना approve की है जिसकी कुल राशि Rs 3.7 lakh crore है, इसलिए 'Outlay' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Votary' का अर्थ है supporter or devotee, 'Efficacy' का अर्थ है प्रभावशीलता, और 'Leeway' का अर्थ है छूट या स्वतंत्रता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Outlay' should be used because it refers to the total amount of financial plan or expenditure. The sentence mentions that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a scheme with a total financial provision of Rs 3.7 lakh crore, making 'outlay' the fitting choice here. Whereas, 'Votary' means a supporter or devotee, 'Efficacy' means effectiveness, and 'Leeway' signifies freedom or allowance, which are not appropriate in this context.

18. **B) Betterment** (noun) – Improvement, enhancement, advancement, progress, amelioration बेहतरी

'Betterment' का use इसलिए किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि इसका अर्थ सुधार या उन्नति है। यह passage किसानों के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने और इस context में 'Betterment' को उपयुक्त बनाने के उद्देश्य से विभिन्न योजनाओं पर चर्चा करता है। जबकि, 'Dissent' का अर्थ disagreement है, 'Assessment' का अर्थ evaluation है, और 'Amendment' का अर्थ change या alteration है, जो इस context में फिट नहीं बैठता है।

- 'Betterment' should be used because it means improvement or enhancement. The passage discusses various schemes aimed at enhancing farmers' lives, making 'betterment'

appropriate in this context. Whereas, 'Dissent' implies disagreement, 'Assessment' means evaluation, and 'Amendment' signifies a change or alteration, which don't fit in this context.

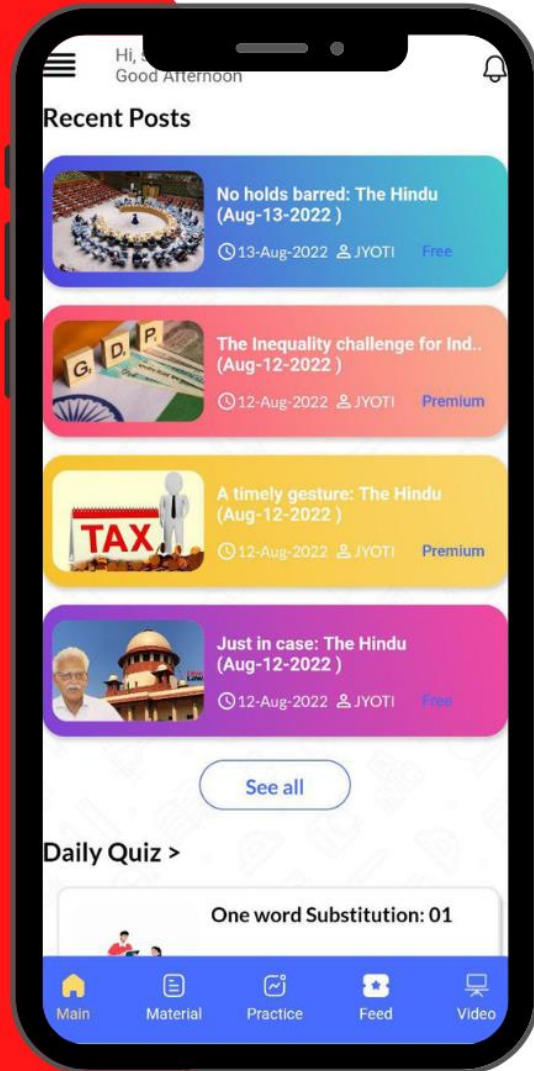
19. A) 'Will' सबसे appropriate choice है, क्योंकि sentence future की initiative (the PM-PRANAM) पर चर्चा कर रहा है। will का उपयोग future के इरादे या कार्य को indicate करता है। इस case में, PM-PRANAM future में states को प्रोत्साहित करेगा। 'are' का use करने से पता चलेगा कि program स्वयं अभी प्रोत्साहन दे रहा है, लेकिन यह passage द्वारा सुझाया नहीं गया है। was और 'were' दोनों past में हैं और fit नहीं होते हैं क्योंकि यह passage future की योजना के बारे में बात कर रहा है, न कि किसी ऐसी चीज़ के बारे में जो past में पहले ही पूरी हो चुकी है।

- 'Will' is the most appropriate choice, because the sentence is discussing a future initiative (the PM-PRANAM). The use of "will" indicates a future intention or action. In this case, the PM-PRANAM "will incentivise states" in the future. Using "are" would suggest the program itself is doing the incentivizing right now, but this isn't suggested by the passage. "Was" and "were" are both past tense and don't fit because the passage is speaking about a current and future scheme, not something that has already been completed in the past.

20. C) **Earmark** (verb) – Allocate, designate, reserve, set aside, apportion विशेष प्रयोजन के लिए रखना

'Earmarked' का use इसलिए किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी विशिष्ट उद्देश्य के लिए funds अलग रखना या नामित करना है। दूसरी ओर, 'Overlooked' का अर्थ है चूक जाना, जिसका इस context में कोई मतलब नहीं है। 'Marked' के कई अर्थ हो सकते हैं लेकिन funds अलग रखने के context में, यह 'earmarked' जितना सटीक नहीं है।

- 'Earmarked' should be used because it means to set aside or designate funds for a specific purpose. On the other hand, 'Overlooked' implies neglecting or missing out on something, which doesn't make sense in this context. 'Marked' can mean several things but in the context of setting aside funds, it's not as precise as 'earmarked'.



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