

## Times of India: Doval is right that trust is eroded

Ajit Doval's **assessment** at a recent Brics meet that the situation along the LAC since 2020 has eroded **strategic** trust with China **is** as **candid** an **admission** as possible. The Chinese **of course** continue to **compartmentalise** the border dispute and **insist** that the two sides should look at the overall relationship. But Beijing should realise that the border **row** is **symptomatic** of a larger problem **plaguing** India-China ties. Today's China has **taken an ultra-authoritarian turn** and is **intent** on challenging democracies and rewriting the rules-based international order. And in Beijing's scheme, India is **merely** a country that needs to be **periodically** reminded of its secondary position in Asia.

Therefore, China is far from interested in **addressing** Indian interests. Why else would it continue to **back** a **belligerent** but **bankrupt** Pakistan? **That** the issue isn't only about the border **was exemplified** by New Delhi's decision to reject Chinese EV giant BYD's \$1 billion investment plan for a car and battery manufacturing plant. True, the investment would have been a **shot in the arm** for India's EV **ecosystem** and generated **considerable** local employment. True, too, the Indian market remains a **leverage** for New Delhi to put pressure on Beijing. However, the **strategy** of **incentivising** Chinese good behaviour through market access and economic cooperation **has** failed over the last **decade**.



Under Xi Jinping, China no longer operates on expected **lines** and the Chinese Communist Party has even gone after successful Chinese businesses that don't **conform to** its political objectives. This is **precisely** why we see a shift in the US today where there is **bipartisan** support for **competing** with China **economically** and not giving it any **free passes**. However **India**, to **make up for** the loss of Chinese investments, **should** look to other sources of **FDI** by **furthering** industrial reforms and **stepping up** its own production capacities. Right now, **denying** China market access **is** a more effective leverage.

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

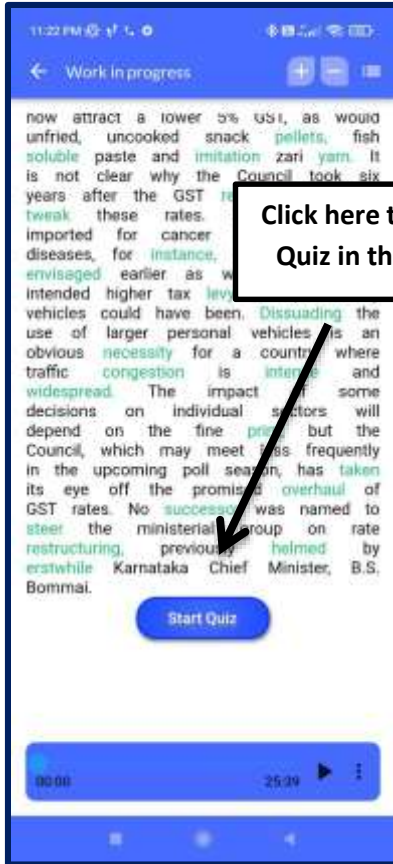
## Vocabulary

1. **Erode** (verb) – Corrode, wear away, wear down, eat away at, eat into, नष्ट करना
2. **Assessment** (noun) – Evaluation, appraisal, judgement, estimation, मूल्यांकन
3. **Strategic** (adjective) – relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage. सामरिक
4. **Candid** (adjective) – Honest, straightforward, frank, open, blunt, straight सच्चा/ स्पष्ट
5. **Admission** (noun) – Confession, acknowledgement, acceptance, प्रवेश/स्वीकार
6. **Candid admission** (noun) – an open, frank, and straightforward acknowledgment or confession
7. **Of course** (phrase) – Definitely, surely, certainly, बिना शंका के
8. **Compartmentalise** (verb) – Segregate, separate, divide; divide into discrete sections or categories विभाजित करना
9. **Insist** (verb) – Demand, assert, emphasize, जोर देना
10. **Row** (noun) – Dispute, argument, disagreement, विवाद
11. **Symptomatic** (adjective) – Indicative, representative, suggestive, लाक्षणिक
12. **Plague** (verb) – Torment, afflict, trouble, affect, pester, harass परेशान करना
13. **Take a turn** (phrase) – To change in condition or quality, especially quickly or suddenly. मोड़ लेना
14. **Ultra-authoritarian** (adjective) – Extremely controlling or dictatorial, संघर्षपूर्ण प्रधानतावादी
15. **Intent** (noun) – Purpose, objective, aim, intention, target उद्देश्य
16. **Merely** (adverb) – Simply, just, only, केवल
17. **Periodically** (adverb) – Occasionally, from time to time, intermittently, समय-समय पर
18. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, attend to, address सुलझाना, निपटाना
19. **Back** (verb) – Support, sponsor, assist, fund समर्थन करना
20. **Belligerent** (adjective) – Aggressive, hostile, confrontational, quarrelsome, pugnacious युद्धरत
21. **Bankrupt** (adjective) – Insolvent, broke, in debt; a person judged by a court to be insolvent, whose property is taken and disposed of for the benefit of their creditors. दिवालिया
22. **Exemplify** (verb) – Illustrate, demonstrate, show, उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करना

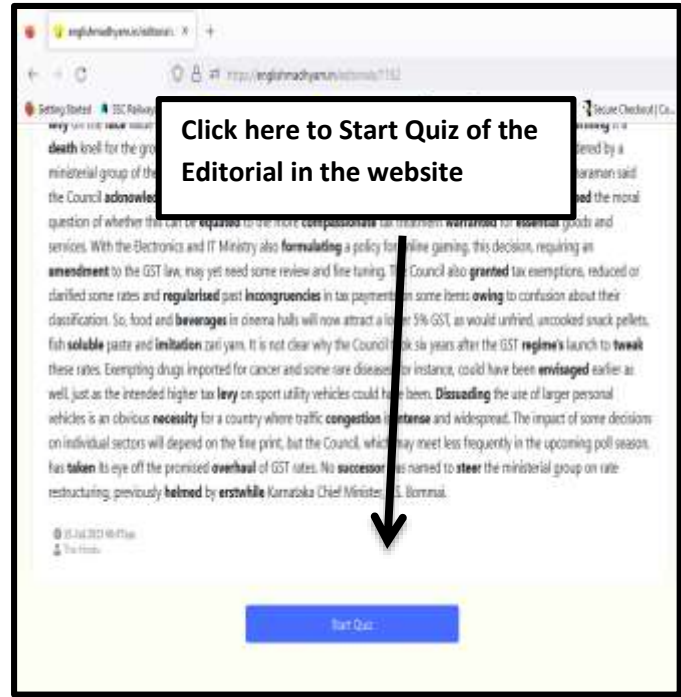
23. **Shot in the arm** (phrase) – Boost, encouragement, stimulus; an encouraging stimulus. प्रोत्साहन
24. **Ecosystem** (noun) – a complex network or interconnected system पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
25. **Considerable** (adjective) – Substantial, significant, major, महत्वपूर्ण
26. **Leverage** (noun) – Advantage, influence, power; the power to influence a person or situation. प्रभाव, बल
27. **Incentivise** (verb) – Encourage, motivate, stimulate, प्रोत्साहित करना
28. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years, दशक
29. **Line** (noun) – Course of action or thought; Policy, method, approach, position, stance तरीका
30. **Conform** (to) (verb) – Comply with, adhere to, follow, अनुरूप होना
31. **Precisely** (adverb) – Exactly, accurately, correctly, ठीक
32. **Bipartisan** (adjective) – involving the agreement or cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other's policies. द्विदलीय
33. **Compete** (verb) – Contend, rival, vie, contest, प्रतिस्पर्धा करना
34. **Economically** (adverb) – Financially, monetarily, आर्थिक रूप से
35. **Free passes** (noun) – toleration of bad behaviour or poor performance. प्राधिकार देना
36. **Make up for** (phrase) – Compensate, offset, counteract, भरपाई करना
37. **FDI** (noun) – an ownership stake in a foreign company or project made by an investor, company, or government from another country.
38. **Further** (verb) – Promote, advance, forward, आगे बढ़ाना
39. **Step up** (phrasal verb) – Increase, intensify, boost, accelerate, improve बढ़ाना
40. **Deny** (verb) – Refuse, decline, reject, forbid, prevent नकारना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Ajit Doval, at a recent BRICS meet, mentioned that the LAC situation since 2020 has eroded India's strategic trust with China.
2. China tends to separate the border dispute from the overall India-China relationship.
3. The border tension is a symptom of broader issues in the India-China relationship.
4. Modern China exhibits strong authoritarian tendencies and seeks to challenge democracies.
5. China aims to restructure the current rules-based international order.
6. Beijing views India as a nation that needs to be reminded of its subordinate position in Asia.
7. China's support for Pakistan, despite its financial troubles, highlights Beijing's indifference to Indian concerns.
8. India's refusal of Chinese EV giant BYD's \$1 billion investment signifies issues beyond the border.
9. While the rejected investment would have benefited India's EV sector, India's market offers leverage against China.
10. Past strategies of encouraging China through market access and economic cooperation have not been successful.
11. Under Xi Jinping, China's actions are unpredictable, and the Chinese Communist Party targets even successful Chinese businesses that defy its political goals.
12. The U.S., witnessing China's approach, now has bipartisan support to compete with China economically.
13. The U.S. approach doesn't favor offering economic advantages to China.
14. To counterbalance the decline in Chinese investments, India should pursue other FDI sources.
15. India should enhance industrial reforms and production capabilities, making market denial an effective strategy against China.



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### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to Ajit Doval's assessment at the recent Brics meet, what has happened to the strategic trust with China since 2020?**
  - A. It has improved and strengthened.
  - B. It has corroded unchanged.
  - C. It has destroyed and weakened.
  - D. It has just started to build.
2. **What did New Delhi decide regarding the Chinese EV giant BYD's \$1 billion investment plan?**
  - A. It accepted the plan enthusiastically.
  - B. It set aside the plan.
  - C. It asked for a higher investment.
  - D. It had no concerns regarding the investment.
3. **Which of the following best describes the primary reason for India's decision to reject the Chinese EV company BYD's investment plan?**
  - A. India did not want any foreign direct investment.
  - B. India did not believe in the potential growth of electric vehicles.
  - C. The strategic mistrust with China due to issues beyond just the border.
  - D. India did not want to promote local employment in the EV sector.
4. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Ambivalent
  - B. Complimentary
  - C. Critical
  - D. Enthusiastic
5. **What is a synonym for the word "belligerent" as mentioned in the passage?**
  - A. Friendly
  - B. Passive
  - C. Aggressive
  - D. Cooperative
6. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice**  
**He built a website from scratch**
  - A. A website has been built from scratch by him.
  - B. A website was built from scratch by him.
  - C. A website was building from scratch by him.
  - D. A website is built from scratch by him
7. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**  
She said, since it was evening, she had to go for a run.
  - A. She said, "It is evening I must ran."
  - B. She said, "It is evening I might go for a run."
  - C. She said, "It is evening I should go for a run."
  - D. She said, "It is evening I must go for a run."
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The \_\_\_\_\_ document was difficult to decipher.

- A. arcane
- B. candid
- C. terse
- D. cogent

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

**It is a structured mechanism providing information to / the Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for /while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions/ the citizenry about all public actions, /**

- A. It is a structured mechanism providing information to while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions the Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for the citizenry about all public actions.
- B. It is a structured mechanism providing information to the Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for the citizenry about all public actions, while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions.
- C. The Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for it is a structured mechanism providing information to the citizenry about all public actions, while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions.
- D. The Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions it is a structured mechanism providing information to the citizenry about all public actions,

**10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**

John couldn't resist taking ***a bite at the cherry*** when the opportunity presented itself.

- A. To taste something sweet and delicious
- B. To make the most of an opportunity
- C. To share a delightful experience with others
- D. To avoid taking any risks

**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. With no let-up in stubble burning incidents in Punjab, the hopes of the people in the region of getting cleaner air this coming winter have, yet again, been belied.
- A. The burning of paddy straw to clear the fields after the harvest is a major factor contributing to the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the state and the NCR in October and November.
- B. September 15 to October 2 this year as compared to 228 fires in the same period last year.
- C. The Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS), which is compiling data on farm fires in the region, has recorded 275 cases of stubble being set alight from
- D. Thus, the paddy harvesting season has once more come with ominous signs of the atmosphere being contaminated by noxious fumes.

2. The farmers have again shunned the scientific way of managing the crop residue as it remains financially unfeasible for them.

A. BCAD

B. ACBD

C. ACDB

D. BADC

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

- P. It was the first World Cup that was televised live globally, that too in colour, and thereafter yellow became the colour of beauty, Brazil the non-partisan's favourite team.
- Q. The acme of the Brazilian method was seen at the 1970 World Cup, in which the irresistible waves of attacks by yellow-shirted, supremely talented men from South America took the watcher's breath away.
- R. The only footballer to win three World Cup crowns, he was the global face of the sport. He was the one man who embodied the delightful and wondrous Brazilian style of play — he termed it 'o jogo bonito', or 'the beautiful game' — which prized inventive and uninterrupted attack, underpinned by skilful ball control and precision in passing... and rare joie de vivre.
- S. For six decades, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, was called simply the 'king'.

A. SQRP

B. SRQP

C. QPRS

D. PRQS

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

- P. The poorest families, covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, get 35 kg of foodgrains each per month. The decision not to charge even the highly subsidised rates for a year from January comes with the announcement of discontinuation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana from December 31.
- Q. The welfare programme was extended several times, the latest being in September, when the government added another three months, possibly keeping in mind the crucial state elections.
- R. Under this scheme, which was launched in April 2020 amid the Covid pandemic, 5 kg of free foodgrains was provided to every person on top of the NFSA entitlement.
- S. The Centre provides rice at Rs 3 per kg and wheat at Rs 2 per kg to 81.35 crore eligible Indians under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Each member of a poor family is entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains every month.

A. RPQS

B. RSPQ

C. SRQP

D. SPRQ

**Comprehension**

The rush to join BRICS, the grouping that brings together Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and represents 40 per cent of the world's population and 23 per cent of global GDP, has sometimes been explained as triggered by FOMO, a fear of missing out. The geopolitical shifts in the world from the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ frenetic group shopping as middle-sized countries with decent economies in the global south look for both voice and leverage. Both are potentially possible in BRICS, made up of five regional heavyweights. More than 20 countries are in the \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_. If media reports are correct, five applicants — Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, the UAE, Egypt and Argentina — may be granted membership this August at the Cape Town summit. While it is always desirable to have bigger groupings than small clubs, especially when the stated aim of the group is to project the interests of the \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ global south, an increase in membership is also likely to weigh the group in favour of China, the world's second largest economy. Other than the five



possible new \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ this year, those waiting to join are also part of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Yet to come
- B. Set off
- C. Time ahead
- D. Coming up

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

- A. Queue
- B. Alliance
- C. Federation
- D. Support

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. Aggression
- B. Non-monolithic
- C. Long-endurance
- D. Profit-driven

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. Short-lived
- B. Disruption
- C. Transgress
- D. Entrants

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

- P. Besides the general alert sounded over the possible spread of coronavirus in the wake of the fresh Covid wave in China, the surge of cases in the neighbouring country has triggered a unique concern in India.
- Q. Not only will it bring down the dependence on China but also make medicines cheaper.
- R. The impending crisis should be turned into an opportunity and act as a catalyst to ramp up the indigenous API sector.
- S. With over 65 per cent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) needed by India's pharmaceutical industry imported from China, the fear of disruption in the supply of these critical raw components of medicines is legitimate.

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

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

- P. Her professional integrity came further under a cloud as most of these loans eventually proved to be non-performing assets, causing a loss of Rs 1,730 crore to the bank.
- Q. The arrest of the disgraced former MD and CEO of ICICI Bank, Chanda Kochhar, and her husband Deepak Kochhar by the CBI is the final nail in her career's coffin.

- R. In a quid pro quo, she had reportedly received undue benefits/illegal gratification through her husband's company, which had a series of opaque deals with Videocon Group head Venugopal Dhoot after the group received loans for Rs 3,250 crore from ICICI Bank in 2009-12.
- S. Trouble began for the then star of private sector banking in 2018 when she was forced to step down from the top post following allegations of corruption and other misdeeds by a whistleblower.
- A. QSPR                      B.PSRQ                      C.QSRP                      D.PQSR

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

- P. The Centre has informed the Lok Sabha that 400 people have died across the country during hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks since 2017.
- Q. This year, 48 such deaths have been reported so far; 49 were recorded in 2021. The government has stated that no death linked to manual scavenging has taken place in this period.
- R. The Centre is bent on making a distinction between manual scavenging and cleaning of sewage and septic tanks, even though the latter involves no less insanitary and dehumanising work. Moreover, both practices are prohibited under the Act.
- S. This abominable practice is defined as the lifting of human excreta from insanitary latrines, according to the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- A. QSPR                      B.PSRQ                      C.QSRP                      D.PQSR

**Answers**

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

[Practice Exercise](#)**Explanations****1. C) It has corroded and weakened.**

In the passage, it is stated that "Ajit Doval's assessment at a recent Brics meet that the situation along the LAC since 2020 has eroded strategic trust with China". This indicates that the trust has diminished or weakened since that year.

**2. B) It prohibited the plan.**

The passage mentions, "That the issue isn't only about the border was exemplified by New Delhi's decision to reject Chinese EV giant BYD's \$1 billion investment plan for a car and battery manufacturing plant". This shows that New Delhi decided not to go ahead with the proposed investment plan from BYD.

**3. C. The strategic mistrust with China due to issues beyond just the border.**

The passage mentions that while the investment from the Chinese EV company BYD would have positively impacted India's EV ecosystem and employment, the decision to reject it was driven by broader concerns related to the strategic mistrust with China. This mistrust has arisen due to the situation along the LAC since 2020 and other aspects of the India-China relationship, indicating that the issue isn't only about the border.

**4. C) Critical**

The passage consistently presents China's actions and motivations in a negative light. Phrases such as "trust is eroded," "ultra-authoritarian turn," and "needs to be periodically reminded of its secondary position in Asia" indicate a critical stance towards China's international relations and domestic politics.

**5. C) The word "belligerent" means showing an eagerness to fight or be confrontational. Thus, the word that best conveys a similar meaning is "aggressive".****6. B) A website was built from scratch by him.****7. D) She said, "It is evening I must go for a run."****8. A) arcane**

- **Arcane** (adjective) – Mysterious, secret, hidden, enigmatic, occult रहस्यमय
- **Candid** (adjective) – Frank, open, honest, sincere, forthright सच्चा
- **Terse** (adjective) – Brief, concise, succinct, laconic, compact संक्षिप्त
- **Cogent** (adjective) – Convincing, persuasive, compelling, forceful, strong निश्चयात्मक

**9. C) The Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for it is a structured mechanism providing information to the citizenry about all public actions, while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions.****10. B. To make the most of an opportunity मौके का फायदा उठाना**

The idiom "A Bite at the cherry" means to take advantage of an opportunity when it presents itself. In this context, John couldn't resist taking advantage of the opportunity that came his way.

11. **B) 1ACBD2**

**1:** is the introductory sentence. It sets the context for the entire paragraph by discussing the continued problem of stubble burning in Punjab and its effect on air quality.

**A:** A elaborates on what was introduced in 1. It talks about why stubble burning is problematic, especially regarding its impact on air pollution. It's natural to explain the cause (burning of paddy straw) of the problem mentioned in 1 (air pollution) immediately after introducing the problem.

**C:** C introduces the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS) and its data compilation role. It hints at some statistics related to stubble burning

**B:** B completes the data introduced in C. It gives the exact figures on the cases of stubble burning for a specific period and makes a comparison with the previous year. The phrase "from September 15 to October 2 this year" in B is a continuation of the data being presented in C.

**D:** D gives the consequence of the data presented in C-B. After being informed of the increase in stubble burning cases, D makes it clear that the upcoming paddy harvesting season will have adverse effects on the environment

**2:** provides an explanation for the continuing problem: farmers are not adopting scientific methods due to financial constraints.

12. **B) SRQP**

**S:** This seems like an introduction to a **prominent figure**, Pelé, and provides a premise. So it's logical to place it first.

**R:** After introducing Pelé, paragraph R delves deeper into his achievements and what made him so special. **It describes the Brazilian style of play and attributes it largely to Pelé.** This should come after S as it builds on the premise set by it.

**Q:** Now that we've been introduced to Pelé and the Brazilian style of play, paragraph Q provides a **specific instance (the 1970 World Cup)** where this **style** was prominently displayed. This should come after R.

**P:** Finally, paragraph P connects the 1970 World Cup's significance in terms of its global broadcast and how it amplified the allure of the Brazilian team. This is a direct consequence of the events of Q and thus should follow it.

13. **D) SPRQ**

**S-P:** Sentence S introduces the NFSA and how much foodgrain is given under it. Sentence P starts by talking about the "poorest families" and what they get under a different scheme. But the second part of Sentence P speaks about the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana." Sentence S sets the stage for what Sentence P later expands upon.

**P-R:** Sentence P mentions the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana" and Sentence R elaborates on this scheme, making it a natural follow-up. The phrase "Under this scheme" in Sentence R clearly refers to the scheme mentioned in Sentence P.

**R-Q:** Sentence R provides details about the scheme which was launched in April 2020. Sentence Q describes how this scheme was extended, so Q logically follows R.

14. B) 'Set off' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "set off" का अर्थ होता है कुछ आरंभ करना या प्रेरित करना। यहाँ, यह indicate करता है कि रूस के यूक्रेन पर हमले के समय के बाद global south में अच्छी अर्थव्यवस्था वाले middle-sized countries में जल्दबाजी आ गई। जबकि 'Yet to come' और 'Time ahead' आगामी समय की बात करते हैं, और 'Coming up' अभी-अभी होने जा रहा है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Set off' should be used because it means to initiate or trigger something. In this context, it indicates that there was a rush among middle-sized countries in the global south after the event of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Whereas, 'Yet to come' and 'Time ahead' talk about the forthcoming time, and 'Coming up' implies something that is about to happen, which are not apt for this context.
15. A) 'Queue' का use होगा क्योंकि "queue" का अर्थ होता है line में लगना या कतार में रहना। इस context में, अनेक देश BRICS में शामिल होने की प्रतीक्षा में हैं, जो कि एक "queue" या कतार की तरह है। 'Alliance', 'Federation', और 'Support' इस context में सही अर्थ नहीं प्रकट करते हैं। 'Queue' should be used because it means to line up or to be in line. In this context, several countries are waiting to join BRICS, which can be likened to a 'queue' or line. 'Alliance', 'Federation', and 'Support' do not convey the correct meaning in this context.
16. B) 'Non-monolithic' का use होगा क्योंकि "non-monolithic" का अर्थ होता है एक समान नहीं इस context में, जब हम बात करते हैं global south के interest की प्रस्तुति की, तो यह इसे indicate के लिए उपयुक्त है कि ग्लोबल साउथ एक समान नहीं है और उसकी अलग-अलग आवश्यकताएँ और रुचियाँ हैं। 'Aggression' का अर्थ है प्रहार या हमला, 'Long-endurance' का अर्थ है prolonged tolerance, और 'Profit-driven' का अर्थ है लाभ प्रेरित, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Non-monolithic' should be used because it means not uniform or having a single approach. In this context, when referring to representing the interests of the global south, it aptly indicates that the global south is not a homogenous entity and has diverse needs and interests. Whereas, 'Aggression' implies attack or assault, 'Long-endurance' means prolonged tolerance, and 'Profit-driven' signifies being motivated by profits, which don't fit in this context.
17. D) 'Entrants' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "entrants" का अर्थ होता है नए सदस्य या प्रवेशकर्ता। context से जुड़े बाकी options के मुकाबले में, 'entrants' सबसे अधिक उपयुक्त शब्द है। 'Short-lived' का अर्थ है अल्पकालिक, 'Disruption' का अर्थ है विघटन या रूकावट, और 'Transgress' का अर्थ है उल्लंघन करना जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'Entrants' should be used because it refers to new members or participants. Compared to the other options related to the context, 'entrants' is the most appropriate term. 'Short-lived' means temporary, 'Disruption' signifies disturbance or interference, and 'Transgress' means to violate, which don't fit in this context.

18. B) **PSRQ**

**P:** Introduces the problem related to the spread of coronavirus in China.

**S:** This sentence provides specifics about the "**unique concern in India**" mentioned in **P**. The concern is about the disruption in the supply of APIs which India majorly imports from China.

**R:** This sentence suggests a solution or a **positive approach to the problem introduced in S**. It talks about viewing the situation as an opportunity to develop the local API sector.

**Q:** **Q elaborates on the benefits of the solution proposed in R** by highlighting the advantages of ramping up the indigenous API sector, which include reducing dependency on China and making medicines more affordable

19. C) **QSRP**

**Q:** Sentence Q introduces the main event: **the arrest of Chanda Kochhar, the former MD and CEO of ICICI Bank**.

**S:** **Sentence S serves as the backstory to the main event introduced in Q**. It sets the timeline for when the troubles began for Chanda Kochhar, specifically pointing out the year 2018. This sentence also highlights that the troubles started with allegations of corruption brought forward by a whistleblower

**R:** After the general allegations are introduced in S, Sentence R gives specifics about what the alleged misdeeds were. It provides a detailed account of the questionable transactions and the benefits Chanda Kochhar reportedly received.

**P:** Sentence P elaborates on the repercussions of the misdeeds mentioned in R, providing a quantifiable loss caused due to the non-performing assets.

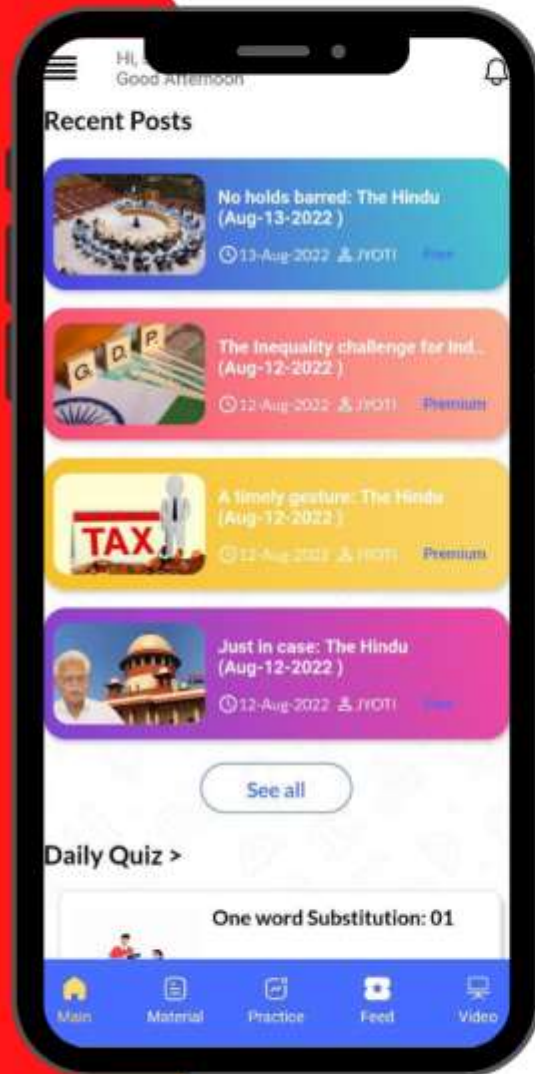
20. D) **PQSR**

**P:** P introduces the topic of deaths from hazardous cleaning.

**Q:** Q provides details about the number of deaths in recent years and mentions manual scavenging, pointing to the fact that no deaths have been linked to it.

**S:** Given that manual scavenging was mentioned in Q and not yet defined, paragraph S logically follows Q, as it defines manual scavenging

**R:** Finally, R elaborates on the distinction between the two types of cleaning mentioned previously and references the Act that was brought up in S



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