

## Caste data's benefits and risks may be overblown

Last week, the Patna high court **upheld** the Bihar government's right to conduct a caste survey. The **historic exercise**, the first of its type since 1931, **began** earlier this year and aimed to conduct an **enumeration** of the **socioeconomic** status of households — including indicators of wealth, education and, most importantly, jati (caste) — but was paused because of an **interim** order of the high court in May.

In its order, the high court rejected the petitioner's **plea** that only the Union government could conduct such an exercise. Arguing that “the collection of **statistics** to **further** economic and social planning and ensure social security and insurance is definitely within the **premise** of the State”, the high court declared that a survey **of this sort** is not **merely** permissible, but also important to conduct. **Moreover**, holding that the terms “survey” and “census” have been interchangeably used before, the court **held** that the **determination** of **backwardness** is a **legitimate** goal of such a survey.

Additionally, the court **dismissed** privacy concerns by saying that 80% of the survey is complete and “not even one **instance** [of] a complaint of **coercion**” has **come forth**, and that collecting personal data to improve policy-making is a valid goal.

The judgement makes the path easier for other states in India to conduct such exercises. This will **invariably** occur. **The Bihar survey**, it must be noted, **had** support from political parties across the **spectrum**. By conducting a similar census, states will begin to develop a clearer understanding how caste **hierarchies map onto** economic hierarchies across geographies.

**Caste**, which continues to determine life **outcomes** from occupation choice to marriage in much of India, **remains stubbornly central** — if not always visibly so — in the organisation of society. Knowing which castes need support — and where — can improve government **functioning**, as the judgement also notes. It could help target **non-universal** benefits better, **carve out** new policies for those specially in need and **rationalise** reservations. Finally, in the absence of the **decennial** census, these caste surveys could help fill important data **lacunae**.

**Critics** of conducting such an exercise **make** three points. First, they argue that such surveys **vitiates** the atmosphere, **reinforcing** divisions among castes. This may not always be true. Bihar conducted its caste survey over four months this year: At no point was there a significantly visible **deterioration** in caste relations. However, the more **substantive** worry is whether caste divides **worsen** once the results of the census are **made public**.

This is a valid concern, but one could argue that jati is so central to life in India that the **marginal** impact will be small. **Those** who **lived through** the Mandal Commission years **will attest** to the **severity** of the protests and the violence it **unleashed**, but the Mandal Commission **proposed** adding a whole new category of individuals — the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) — to the reserved category. This is **unlikely** to be the case today.

A second concern relates to the government's priorities. Such an **exercise**, it is argued, **will distract** from the government's task of ensuring welfare of **the disadvantaged**, **curbing** inflation and

unemployment and ensuring economic growth. The survey will **result in** groups **clamouring** for reservations and benefits and the politics of social justice will replace policies for development. There is, once again, some **merit** to the claims in the argument. However, while it is true that **mandating** reservations is easier than the hard task of, say, ensuring quality education for children, it is unclear if this **trade-off** is as significant as it is **made out to be**.

Poor government policy is much more closely linked to short policy time horizons, an increasingly **unrepresentative** political class, an **overburdened bureaucracy** and a lack of ideas, than it is to an unhealthy focus on reservations.

A third concern is the following: If the survey **points to** a new set of jatis that are in **desperate** need of policy support, will it come at the cost of the **existing** set of jatis benefitting from reservations or will they be **accommodated** in addition to these? If **the latter**, will this result in a majority of opportunities being reserved?

The **history** of reservations in India **suggests** that it is going to be hard to withdraw reservation from existing jatis — thus, the more likely **scenario** is that more jatis will benefit from reservation. Is this always a bad thing? There is no **empirical** evidence to suggest that more than 50% reservation worsens growth or socioeconomic outcomes.

Tamil Nadu's **experiment** with 69% reservation **hasn't** proven **disastrous**; if anything, **scholarly** work suggests the opposite, **that** the social **churning** caused by reservation, **in conjunction with progressive** policies, has **expanded** opportunities for minorities and democratised society.

**Indeed**, more still needs to be done in the state, especially for Dalits and tribals, but there seems to be no obvious costs of expanded reservations in the last few decades. Similarly, if we include reservations for women, many states (such as Bihar) have nearly 65% reservation of seats in elected positions in local bodies. While there is considerable evidence suggesting that quotas improve outcomes for minority groups, it is hard to make the opposing claim, that lower reservations would have dramatically **altered** outcomes.

In the end, the **success** of the caste survey in **bringing about** “development with justice”, as the Patna high court hopes, **depends** on the government's ability to put together a meaningful policy **agenda** that builds on what the exercise shows.

The benefits are **contingent** and **contained** to specific groups and may only **materialise in the long-run**. Here, therefore, is one possible **account** of the **aftermath** of the upcoming wave of caste surveys in India: While the advantages may have **limitations**, the **drawbacks** appear to be few too. **[Practice]**

- **Scholarly** (adjective) – Learned, academic, erudite, intellectual, अध्ययनशील
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Overblown** (adjective) – Exaggerated, overstated, inflated, pompous, excessive  
हद से ज़्यादा, बढ़ाकर कहा हुआ
2. **Uphold** (verb) – Support, maintain, defend, validate, endorse समर्थन करना, बनाए रखना
3. **Historic** (adjective) – Significant, memorable, important, notable, consequential ऐतिहासिक, महत्वपूर्ण
4. **Enumeration** (noun) – Listing, tally, reckoning, count, cataloging गणना, सूचीबद्ध करना
5. **Socioeconomic** (adjective) – Related to both social and economic factors सामाजिक-आर्थिक
6. **Interim** (adjective) – Temporary, provisional, transitional, short-term अंतरिम, अस्थायी
7. **Plea** (noun) – Appeal, request, petition, supplication, entreaty दलील, अर्ज़ी
8. **Statistics** (noun) – Data, numerical data, figures, information आंकड़े
9. **Further** (verb) – Advance, promote, foster, encourage, stimulate बढ़ावा देना
10. **Premise** (noun) – Assumption, proposition, basis, foundation पूर्वधारणा, आधार
11. **Of this sort** (phrase) – Of this type or kind इस प्रकार का
12. **Merely** (adverb) – Simply, only, just, solely केवल, सिर्फ़
13. **Moreover** (adverb) – Additionally, furthermore, besides, also इसके अलावा
14. **Hold** (verb) – (of a judge or court) rule; decide तय करना, फैसला करना
15. **Determination** (noun) – Resolution, resolve, firmness, decision निश्चय, दृढ़ता
16. **Backwardness** (noun) – Lack of progress or development, underdevelopment पिछड़ापन
17. **Legitimate** (adjective) – Lawful, legal, valid, authorized, rightful वैध, कानूनी
18. **Dismiss** (verb) – Reject, disregard, ignore, repudiate, spurn खारिज करना
19. **Instance** (noun) – Example, case, occurrence, illustration उदाहरण
20. **Coercion** (noun) – Force, compulsion, pressure, intimidation दबाव, ज़बरदस्ती
21. **Come forth** (phrase) – Emerge, appear, come out, surface सामने आना
22. **Invariably** (adverb) – Always, without exception, consistently हमेशा, निरंतर
23. **Spectrum** (noun) – Range, gamut, array, scale श्रेणी, विस्तार

24. **Hierarchy** (noun) – Ranking, grading, ladder, pecking order पदानुक्रम, वर्गीकरण
25. **Map into/onto** (phrasal verb) – To match or correspond with, to relate directly मेल करना, सम्बन्धित करना
26. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, upshot, aftermath परिणाम
27. **Stubbornly** (adverb) – Unyieldingly, obstinately, resolutely, inflexibly, determinedly जिद्दी ढंग से
28. **Central** (adjective) – Core, key, fundamental, main, principal मुख्य
29. **Functioning** (noun) – Working, operation, performance, execution कार्य
30. **Non-universal** (adjective) – Specific to certain individuals or groups rather than applicable to everyone; Not relating to or affecting all.
31. **Carve out** (phrasal verb) – To establish or create through hard work or effort, separate, extract, form बनाना
32. **Rationalise** (verb) – Justify, explain, reason, make reasonable, validate तर्कसंगत बनाना
33. **Decennial** (adjective) – Occurring every ten years, ten-year दशकीय
34. **Lacunae** (noun) – Lack, shortage, absence, deficit, paucity कमी
35. **Critics** (noun) – Reviewers, commentators, evaluators, analyzers आलोचक
36. **Vitiate** (verb) – Spoil, mar, corrupt, degrade, ruin दूषित करना
37. **Reinforce** (verb) – Strengthen, bolster, fortify, support, enhance मजबूती देना
38. **Deterioration** (noun) – Decline, degradation, worsening, breakdown, decay विकृति
39. **Substantive** (adjective) – Significant, substantial, essential, important मौलिक
40. **Worsen** (verb) – Deteriorate, decline, degenerate, degrade बिगड़ना
41. **Make public** (phrase) – Reveal, disclose, divulge, announce सार्वजनिक करना
42. **Marginal** (adjective) – Minimal, slight, small, minor, insignificant नगण्य
43. **Live through** (phrase) – Survive, endure, experience, weather गुज़रना
44. **Attest** (verb) – Confirm, substantiate, validate, certify गवाही देना
45. **Severity** (noun) – Intensity, seriousness, harshness, gravity तीव्रता
46. **Unleash** (verb) – cause (a strong or violent force) to be released or become unrestrained. शुरू होना

47. **Propose** (verb) – Suggest, offer, submit, present प्रस्तावित करना
48. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, doubtful, uncertain, implausible असंभावित
49. **Distract** (verb) – Divert, sidetrack, defocus, draw away ध्यान भंग करना
50. **The disadvantaged** (noun) – Those lacking in opportunity or resources; the underprivileged, impoverished वंचित वर्ग
51. **Curb** (verb) – Restrain, control, check, limit, contain रोकना
52. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, effect परिणाम होना
53. **Clamour** for (verb) – Demand, call for, insist on, require मांग करना
54. **Merit** (noun) – Good point, strong points
55. **Mandate** (verb) – require (something) to be done; make mandatory. अनिवार्य करना
56. **Trade-off** (noun) – a situation in which the achieving of something you want involves the loss of something else which is also desirable, but less so
57. **Make out to be** (phrase) – Portray as, represent as, describe as कहा जाना
58. **Unrepresentative** (adjective) – Not typifying a group or class, not representative अप्रतिनिधित्वकारी
59. **Overburdened** (adjective) – Overloaded, overwhelmed, swamped, strained अत्यधिक बोझिल
60. **Bureaucracy** (noun) – Administration, officialdom, system of government नौकरशाही
61. **Desperate** (adjective) – Hopeless, despairing, frantic, urgent की सख्त (जरूरत)
62. **Existing** (adjective) – Current, present, existing, ongoing मौजूदा
63. **Accommodate** (verb) – Adjust, adapt, allow for, make room for समायोजित करना
64. **The latter** (noun) – Here it refers to "the existing set of jatis"
65. **Scenario** (noun) – Situation, circumstance, condition परिदृश्य
66. **Empirical** (adjective) – Based on observation or experiment, not merely theoretical प्रयोगसिद्ध
67. **Disastrous** (adjective) – Catastrophic, calamitous, ruinous विनाशकारी
68. **Churning** (noun) – Agitation, stirring, turmoil उथल पुथल
69. **In conjunction with** (phrase) – Along with, together with, in association with साथ में
70. **Progressive** (adjective) – Advanced, modern, forward-thinking उन्नतिशील

71. **Expand** (verb) – Increase, enlarge, grow, extend विस्तारित करना
72. **Indeed** (adverb) – Truly, certainly, in fact वास्तव में
73. **Alter** (verb) – Change, modify, adjust, amend बदलना
74. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, lead to, create, produce पैदा करना
75. **Agenda** (noun) – Plan, schedule, program कार्यसूची
76. **Contingent** (adjective) – Dependent on, conditional, subject to
77. **Contained** (verb) – Limited, controlled, delimited, checked, confined, restricted सीमित
78. **Materialise** (verb) – Appear, become reality, manifest साकार होना
79. **In the long run** (phrase) – Over a long period of time, eventually लंबे समय में
80. **Account** (noun) – Explanation, version, reason, justification
81. **Aftermath** (noun) – Consequence, result, outcome दुष्परिणाम
82. **Limitation** (noun) – Restriction, constraint, confinement सीमा, हद
83. **Drawback** (noun) – Disadvantage, weakness, defect नकारात्मक पहलु

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Patna high court upheld the Bihar government's right to conduct a caste survey, the first such survey since 1931.
2. This survey aimed to evaluate the socioeconomic status of households by factors such as wealth, education, and caste.
3. The high court rejected the petitioner's argument that only the Union government could conduct this survey.
4. The court affirmed that such surveys further economic and social planning, ensuring social security and insurance.
5. It stated that determining backwardness is a legitimate objective of the survey.
6. Privacy concerns regarding the survey were dismissed, with the court noting no complaints of coercion.
7. The judgement paves the way for other Indian states to undertake similar exercises, as the Bihar survey had broad political support.
8. A comprehensive understanding of caste hierarchies can aid in policy-making and targeting support where it's most needed.
9. Critics highlight three concerns: (i) the survey might reinforce caste divisions, (ii) it could distract from other priorities like welfare and economic growth, and (iii) reservations might become excessive and lead to a majority of opportunities being reserved.
10. The article suggests the concern about reinforcing caste divisions might be overstated since caste is deeply embedded in Indian life.
11. While reservations might seem a simpler solution than addressing root issues, focusing solely on reservations isn't necessarily the primary cause of policy inefficiencies.
12. Expanding reservations may not always be negative, as evidenced by Tamil Nadu's 69% reservation system, which has not hindered growth or social outcomes.
13. Reservations have, in some cases, expanded opportunities for minorities and fostered more democratic societies.
14. The potential benefits of the caste survey hinge on the government's policy-making based on its results.
15. The aftermath of such caste surveys could bring both limited advantages and few drawbacks, with the ultimate goal being "development with justice".

### Practice Exercise: SSC pattern based

1. **According to the passage, why did the Patna High Court uphold the Bihar government's right to conduct a caste survey?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. The survey is likely to reinforce divisions among castes.
  - B. The collection of statistics is within the premise of the State to further economic and social planning and ensure social security and insurance.
  - C. Only the Union government has the authority to conduct such an exercise.
  - D. The survey has led to a significantly visible deterioration in caste relations.
2. **What concern do critics of the caste survey exercise raise, as per the passage?**
  - A. Critics argue that the caste survey may exacerbate divisions among castes once the results are made public.
  - B. Critics believe that the survey is necessary for the rationalization of reservations.
  - C. Critics argue that such surveys are unnecessary as caste does not significantly impact life in India.
  - D. Critics suggest that the caste survey can help in better targeting of non-universal benefits.
3. **What is the tone of the passage regarding the caste survey conducted by the Bihar government?**
  - A. Critical
  - B. Supportive
  - C. Neutral
  - D. Dismissive
4. **What is a potential concern related to the government's prioritization of a caste survey?**
  - A. The survey will likely lead to a significant reduction in economic growth.
  - B. The survey will result in groups demanding reservations, potentially shifting focus from developmental policies.
  - C. The survey will automatically reduce the government's interest in providing quality education for children.
  - D. The survey will have no effect on the politics of social justice in the country.
5. **Based on the passage, how has reservation policy, in conjunction with progressive policies, impacted society in Tamil Nadu?**
  - A. It has led to a disastrous decline in economic opportunities.
  - B. It has potentially expanded opportunities for minorities and democratized society.
  - C. It has resulted in a significant worsening of growth and socio-economic outcomes.
  - D. It has overwhelmingly resulted in a majority of opportunities being reserved, with negative implications.
6. Which of the following words is an antonym of 'behemoth'?
  - A. Lilliputian
  - B. Goliath
  - C. Colossus
  - D. Juggernaut
7. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.



**Emulate**

- A. Bash
- B. Respect
- C. Neglect
- D. Spoilt

**8. Choose the correct meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence.**

Blue blood is not necessarily a guarantee of one's public decorum.

- A. A person belonging to a middle-class family
- B. A person belonging to a poor family
- C. A person belonging to a high family
- D. A person belonging to an honest family

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

- P. Previous Prime Ministers would hold on-board press conferences to save time, often having to shout over the hum of the aircraft as we journalists struggled to write notes amid the turbulence.
  - Q. More column inches have been spent over the past week on the question posed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington than on the answer he gave at what was incorrectly billed an "unprecedented press conference".
  - R. He has also discontinued the practice of Prime Ministers taking journalists on Air India One for foreign trips.
  - S. Unlike his predecessors, Mr. Modi does not address press conferences in India.
- A. QSRP      B.QPSR      C.RSPQ      D.SPRQ

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

- P. There is little doubt that India was in the Mahalanobis-era nearly five decades prior to his passing on June 28, 1972.
  - Q. Mahalanobis's lifelong courtship with statistics, his unwavering and fearless leadership to advance a statistics and survey culture in India, the founding of the Indian Statistical Institute — "a mighty monument of his handicraft" — and his nurturing of a generation of outstanding academicians have all left behind an enduring legacy.
  - R. Today, in the midst of the shifting socio-economic dynamics in post-pandemic India, he is greatly missed.
  - S. Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, who introduced statistics to India, is a scientist whose absence is felt dearly even today.
- A. PSQR      B.PSRQ      C.SQPR      D.PRQS

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

- P. Since October 2021, militants have killed at least 20 soldiers in the area between the Bhatta Durian-Chamrer
- Q. Forests in Poonch and Pargal-Dangri in Rajouri; in the latest incident, five special forces soldiers were lost in a blast on May 5 during a combing operation
- R. The Rajouri-Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir has been in the news recently for all the wrong reasons

S. The border districts here have seen a relative surge in terror-related incidents over the last couple of years

- A. RPQS      B.RSPQ      C.SRQP      D.SPRQ

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

P. Farewell Imtiaz Saab. In your passing away I have lost a dear friend and mentor.

Q. Our calendars could never be aligned. In the next life, Sir, you will start with a credit.

R. The thought of having you as my guest gave me immense pleasure over the years and I am sad that fate decided otherwise.

S. I have also lost the opportunity to host you in Goa.

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

**Comprehension**

Concerns loomed large on India's neutral \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ over the Russian invasion of Ukraine, for its separation from the US led global market and eventually the \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ on its growth. In contrast, the situation took a reverse gear. India, not only sustained the growth, but is expecting the \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ in the global growth in 2023. According to IMF's World Economic Outlook, global growth was forecast to slow down to 3.2 percent in 2022, from 6 percent in 2021 and slip further to 1.3 percent in 2023. In contrast, India is expected to achieve 7 per cent growth in GDP in 2023, which could be the highest in the world, surpassing China. The factors which affected the global growth \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ inflation and energy crisis, as suggested by Outlook. Global inflation fell prey to the Ukraine war. It rose to 8.8 percent in 2022, from 4.7 percent in 2021. Energy prices rose up to 20 percent within five months of the outbreak of war in February 2022. Among the regions, Europe was the \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ vulnerable to this war.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Accord  
B. Uphold  
C. Stand  
D. Contend

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

- A. Establish  
B. Backlash  
C. Harsh  
D. Curiosity

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

- A. Hegemony  
B. Frosty  
C. Cruelty  
D. Solidarity

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

- A. Was  
B. Were

- C. Are  
D. Is
17. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.  
A. Least  
B. Equally  
C. More  
D. Most
18. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.  
**Asperity**  
A. Civility  
B. Acridity  
C. Curiosity  
D. Volatility
19. Select the most appropriate idiom from the following options that can substitute the underlined part of the given sentence.  
He is the most successful businessman. One of his traits is to **take risk.**  
A. Fill somebody's shoes  
B. Talk through his hat  
C. Throw caution to the wind  
D. Tighten his belt
20. Select the most appropriate **synonym** to replace the **italicised** word.  
***Colossal*** granite obelisks were erected by only a few kings.  
A. Minute  
B. Minuscule  
C. Gigantic  
D. Lilliputian

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. B) According to the passage, the Patna High Court rejected the petitioner's plea that only the Union government could conduct such an exercise. The court argued that "the collection of statistics to further economic and social planning and ensure social security and insurance is definitely within the premise of the State". Thus, the court upheld the Bihar government's right to conduct a caste survey. The correct answer is B, as this is the reason given by the High Court for upholding the Bihar government's right to conduct a caste survey.
2. A) As per the passage, critics of conducting such a caste survey raise concerns that such surveys may exacerbate divisions among castes. Specifically, the passage mentions the critics' concern about whether caste divides will worsen once the results of the census are made public. Thus, the correct answer is A, as it reflects the concern raised by critics in the passage.
3. C) **Neutral**  
 The passage provides a detailed account of the Patna High Court's decision to uphold the Bihar government's right to conduct a caste survey, mentioning the different aspects and opinions related to this survey. The passage includes various viewpoints - it mentions the court's perspective on the importance and legality of the survey, addresses critics' concerns, and talks about the potential aftermath of such surveys. It provides an analysis of critics' concerns as well as the potential benefits the survey might bring. Rather than taking a clear stance as either in favor or against the caste survey, the passage presents information in a balanced manner, making the tone neutral.
4. B) According to the passage, a concern that is raised is that the caste survey will result in groups clamouring for reservations and benefits, and as a result, the politics of social justice may replace policies aimed at broader development. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the passage.
5. B) The passage mentions Tamil Nadu's experiment with 69% reservation and suggests that, rather than proving disastrous, scholarly work implies that the combination of reservation with progressive policies has expanded opportunities for minorities and has played a role in democratizing society. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the evidence presented in the passage.
6. A) **Lilliputian**  
**Behemoth** (noun) – Giant, colossus, monster, leviathan, juggernaut विशालकाय  
 'Behemoth' refers to something that is very large and powerful. Hence, an antonym would be 'Lilliputian', which means very small or miniature.
7. C) **Emulate** (verb) – imitate, copy, mimic, mirror, follow अनुकरण/नकल करना  
 Antonym:-Neglect
  - **Bash** – strike, whack, slap, thump, wallop जोर से मारना

- **Spoilt** – ruin, mar, damage, impair, wreck बिगाड़ना
8. **C) Blue blood** (phrase) – A person belonging to a high family कुलीन, जाना-माना
9. **A) QSRP**  
**Q:** This sentence serves as a good introduction, mentioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi and setting the context of a press conference, which is a common thread throughout all the sentences  
**S:** "S" logically follows "Q" due to the noun-pronoun relationship between "Narendra Modi" in "Q" and "his" in "S". "S" contrasts Modi's practice regarding press conferences with that of previous Prime Ministers.  
**R:** "R" continues from "S", maintaining the theme of Modi's unique approach to interacting with journalists. The pronoun "He" in "R" refers back to "Mr. Modi" in "S", maintaining a logical flow. This sentence further exemplifies how Mr. Modi's handling of the press differs from that of previous Prime Ministers  
**P:** "P" follows logically after "R", as it elaborates on the practices of previous Prime Ministers that Modi has moved away from. It specifically references the practice mentioned in "R", of Prime Ministers taking journalists on foreign trips.
10. **C) SQPR**  
Option Elimination Method:  
**'A. PSQR'** can be eliminated as 'S' (where Mahalanobis is introduced) should come before 'Q'.  
**'B. PSRQ'** can be eliminated as 'S' should come before 'Q', and 'R' mentions the current situation and thus should likely be last.  
**'C. SQPR'** starts with 'S' (the introduction of Mahalanobis), followed by 'Q' (his contributions), 'P' (the historical context), and 'R' (the current context). This option makes logical sense based on the clues.  
**'D. PRQS'** can be eliminated as 'S' (where Mahalanobis is introduced) should come before 'Q'.
11. **B) RSPQ**  
**R:** This sentence introduces the topic – the Rajouri-Poonch region and the negative news surrounding it. It serves as a good starting point since it sets the context.  
**S:** "here" in Sentence S likely refers to the "Rajouri-Poonch region" mentioned in Sentence R, establishing a clear Noun-Pronoun Relationship. This suggests that S should follow R. Sentence S also provides a vague time sequence ("over the last couple of years"), which is a continuation of the recent context set by Sentence R.  
**P:** This sentence provides a specific time frame ("Since October 2021"), indicating a continuation from the time-related context set by S. This suggests that P should follow S.  
**Q:** This sentence provides specific details about an incident (a blast on May 5) in the areas mentioned in Sentence P. This suggests a continuation of the narrative and the specifics of the events, indicating that Q should follow P.
12. **B) PSRQ**

P: Sentence P introduces that the speaker has lost a friend and mentor (Imtiaz Saab).

S: Sentence S builds on this loss, explaining the loss of an opportunity to host Imtiaz Saab in Goa. It logically follows P, confirming our earlier inference.

R: Sentence R expresses sadness over a specific aspect of that loss: the speaker never got to host Imtiaz Saab as a guest. This would logically follow the general statement of loss in S, as it adds more detail to the nature of this lost opportunity.

Q: Sentence Q adds a closing remark, addressing Imtiaz Saab directly and speaking of the next life. This seems like a closing statement, indicating that it should be the last sentence

13. **C) Stand** (noun) – Position, viewpoint, stance, opinion रुख

Here, the context refers to India's neutral stance regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- **Accord** (verb) – to give or grant someone recognition or status देना
- **Uphold** (verb) – Support, endorse, back up, stand by, sustain, समर्थन करना
- **Contend** (verb) – Argue, assert, maintain, claim, state, तर्क करना

14. **B) Backlash** (noun) – Reaction, adverse response, counteraction पलटवार

The word "backlash" in this context refers to a strong negative reaction or adverse consequences. Given the sentence talks about the potential negative impact on India's growth due to its separation from the US-led global market following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, "backlash" fits best.

- **Establish** (verb) – Set up, start, begin, initiate स्थापित करना
- **Harsh** (adjective) – Cruel, severe, brutal, stern, tough कठोर
- **Curiosity** (noun) – Interest, Inquisitiveness, Wonder, Fascination, Eagerness जिज्ञासा

15. **A) Hegemony** (noun) – Dominance, leadership, supremacy, प्राधान्य, नेतृत्व

"Hegemony" means dominance or leadership by one country or social group over others. In this context, it refers to India potentially achieving the highest growth in the global market.

- **Frosty** (adjective) – Unfriendly, unsympathetic
- **Cruelty** (noun) – Brutality, inhumanity, savagery, ruthlessness, क्रूरता
- **Solidarity** (noun) – Unity, harmony, cohesion, camaraderie, unanimity एकता

16. B) The sentence is in past tense, and "**the factors**" is a plural subject, so "**were**" is the correct verb form to use here. The other options do not fit grammatically: "was" would be used for a singular subject; "are" and "is" are in present tense, which is inconsistent with the past tense context of the sentence.

17. D) The context here is that among all regions, Europe was the one that was most vulnerable to the war. Hence, "**most**" is the appropriate word. The other choices do not convey the same meaning: "least" would imply the opposite, i.e., Europe was the least affected region; "equally" would suggest all regions were equally affected, which is not the intent of the sentence; and "more" doesn't work grammatically without a comparison, i.e., "more than what/who?"

18. **A) Asperity** – Harshness, roughness, severity कर्कशता / तीक्ष्णता

**Antonym:** Civility सभ्यता

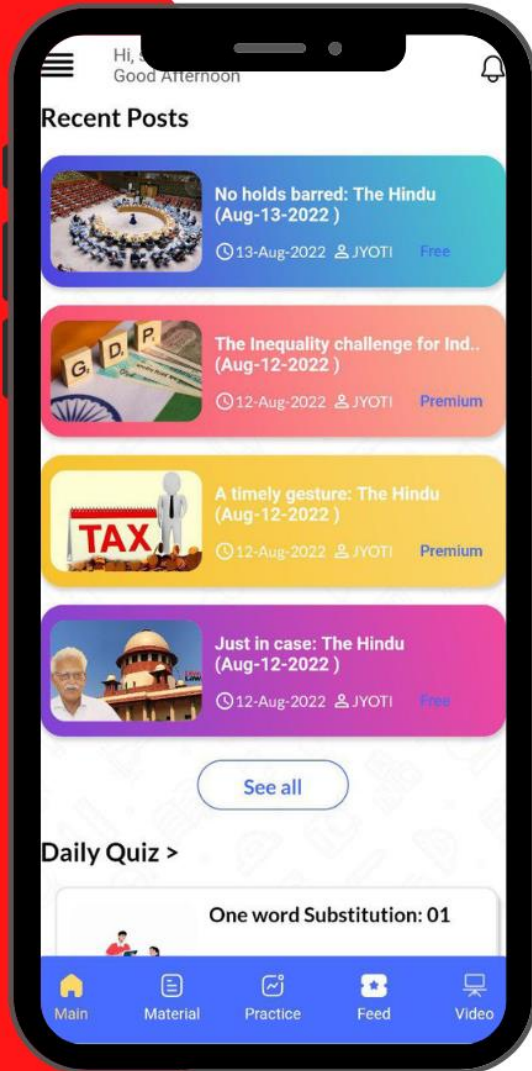
- **Acridity** – Bitterness or acerbity कटुता, चरपरापन
- **Curiosity** – a desire to know or learn जिज्ञासा, कुतूहल, उत्सुकता
- **Virility** – a man's sexual power and energy पुरुष की यौन शक्ति और ऊर्जा

19. **C) Throw caution to the wind** (phrase) – To take risk जोखिम उठाना

- **Fill somebody's shoes** (phrase) – to do someone's job or accept someone's responsibilities
- **Talk through his hat** (phrase) – to talk about something without understanding what you are talking about
- **Tighten his belt** (phrase) – to spend less money than you did before because you have less money:

20. **C) Colossal** (adjective) – Huge, massive, gigantic, oversize, immense, enormous, vast प्रचंड

- **Minute** – Miniature, tiny, minuscule, microscopic, infinitesimal लघु
- **Minuscule** – Tiny, minute, microscopic, infinitesimal मामूली
- **Lilliputian** – trivial or very small. अतिलघु



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