

Playing out a farce: On government and legislature functioning in Manipur

The Manipur Assembly **disregards** duty by **adjourning sine die** at a time of crisis

Given what **transpired** on Tuesday, it is difficult not to **term** the functioning of the government and the legislature in **conflict-ridden** Manipur a farce being played out in the State. The Assembly met just before the **stipulated** six months after the last session on March 3. Article 174(1) of the Constitution **mandates** that sittings have to **take place** within six months of the end of the previous session. **Incomprehensibly**, the session was adjourned sine die just 48 minutes after it began; there was **barely** 11 minutes of **business** with 10 MLAs of the Kuki-Zo community also absent. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had **reportedly** invited the **absentee** Kuki MLAs to the House, by guaranteeing their security, but they denied having spoken to him and refused to buy the guarantee by **pointing to the law and order** situation in the Imphal valley. This **reiterates** the **breakdown** of trust between legislators of one community and the government's leadership despite a sharing of party **affiliations**. The session was originally **set to convene** on August 21, but **the Governor**, Anusuiya Uikey, **had**, **inexplicably**, not issued the notification **summoning** the House, despite the Cabinet's advice to her on August 4. That legislative functions have been so poorly conducted when there are **pressing** issues related to the **rehabilitation** of **displaced** residents, the recovery of looted weapons, the **persisting ethnic** divide leading up to "economic **blockades**" and the **sporadic** violence, indicate the failure of a government that commands an electoral majority in the House.

The Manipur Assembly is no **stranger** to controversy. In its previous **iteration**, **little heed was paid** to parliamentary **conventions**, as it was **marked** by **rampant defections**, **exemplified** by the case of Congress MLA T. Shyamkumar, who became a Minister in the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government and later **stripped of** his office by the Supreme Court which had **lost patience** with the Speaker's inaction after his **blatant** violation of the **anti-defection law**. This time around, the BJP **regime** suffers a severe **legitimacy deficit** — in its inability to **bring about** a **turnaround** in the **deterioration** of ethnic relations **following** the May 3 violence and to conduct proper legislative sessions to at least discuss a **way out**. Ethnic conflicts present complex problems, but **the use** of constitutional **means is** a **must** to enable workable solutions. **As things stand**, the two **sparring** communities in the State are **veering** towards positions that are becoming even more **intractable** as the government continues to **flounder**. The BJP is mistaken if it continues to believe that its **ham-handed approach** to **retain** the **status quo** in leadership **will yield** a **breakthrough** in the State. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Play out** (phrasal verb) –happen; take place.
2. **Farce** (noun) – Absurdity, mockery, travesty, sham, masquerade तमाशा, मज़ाक, ढोंग
3. **Legislature** (noun) – The legislative body of a country or state. विधान मंडल
4. **Functioning** (noun) – Performance, execution, performing, operation, running, working कामकाज
5. **Disregard** (verb) – neglect, ignore, overlook, उपेक्षा करना
6. **Adjourn** (verb) – Suspend, defer, delay, postpone, shelve, interrupt स्थगित करना
7. **Sine die** (adverb) – for a period of time with no fixed end
8. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
9. **Transpire** (verb) – Occur, happen, take place, come about घटित होना
10. **Term** (verb) – label, call, name, designate, denominate करार देना
11. **Conflict-ridden** (adjective) – dominated or plagued by conflicts संघर्ष से ग्रस्त
12. **Stipulated** (adjective) – Specified, required, postulated, agreed, निर्धारित
13. **Mandate** (verb) – require (something) to be done; make mandatory. अनिवार्य बनाना
14. **Take place** (phrase) – Happen, occur, come about, come off, transpire होना
15. **Incomprehensibly** (adverb) – Unintelligibly, unfathomably, inexplicably, perplexingly समझ से बाहर
16. **Barely** (adverb) – Hardly, scarcely, just, only, narrowly मुश्किल से
17. **Business** (noun) – work कार्य
18. **Reportedly** (adverb) – supposedly, seemingly, apparently, allegedly कथित तौर पर
19. **Absentee** (noun) – a person who is expected or required to be present at a place or event but is not. अनुपस्थित होनेवाला
20. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, show, hint at, सूचित करना
21. **Law and order** (phrase) – peace and stability, civil order, public order कानून व्यवस्था
22. **Reiterate** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate, retell, recapitulate दोहराना
23. **Breakdown** (noun) – end of something; failure, break (relations) टूटना

24. **Affiliation** (noun) – Association, connection, membership, alignment, link
संबंध
25. **Set** (to) (verb) – Ready, prepared, or likely to do something. तैयार
26. **Convene** (verb) – Summon, assemble, call together, gather, convoke आयोजित करना
27. **Inexplicably** (adverb) – Unaccountably, mysteriously, bafflingly, perplexingly बेवजह
28. **Summon** (verb) – Call upon, send for, beckon, hail बुलाना
29. **Pressing** (adjective) – Urgent, critical, crucial, important अत्यावश्यक
30. **Rehabilitation** (noun) – Restoration, renewal, re-establishment पुनर्वास
31. **Displaced** (adjective) – Uprooted, evacuated, relocated विस्थापित
32. **Persisting** (adjective) – Continuing, enduring, lasting निरंतर
33. **Ethnic** (adjective) – Racial, tribal, indigenous जातीय
34. **Blockade** (noun) – Obstruction, barrier, barricade ; a situation in which one country refuses to trade with another country
35. **Sporadic** (adjective) – Occasional, infrequent, irregular छिटपुट
36. **Stranger** (adjective) – unknown, alien, unfamiliar अपरिचित
37. **Iteration** (noun) – Repetition, reiteration, recurrence; the repetition of a process or utterance. दुहराव
38. **Pay little heed to** (phrase) – Disregard, ignore, overlook ध्यान न देना
39. **Convention** (noun) – a large meeting or conference, especially of members of a political party or a particular profession or group. सम्मेलन
40. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, denote, signal चिह्नित करना
41. **Rampant** (adjective) – Uncontrolled, unrestrained, unchecked अनियंत्रित; बड़े पैमाने पर
42. **Defection** (noun) – Desertion, betrayal, apostasy दलबदल
43. **Exemplify** (verb) – Illustrate, demonstrate, show उदाहरण देना
44. **Strip** (of) (verb) – Deprive, dispossess, divest, remove से वंचित करना
45. **Lose patience** (phrase) – Get annoyed, get irritated, become exasperated धैर्य खोना
46. **Blatant** (adjective) – Obvious, overt, unconcealed स्पष्ट

47. **Anti-defection** (noun) – Against changing allegiance or betraying one's party दलबदल के खिलाफ
48. **Regime** (noun) – System, order, administration शासन
49. **Legitimacy** (noun) – Validity, authenticity, legality वैधता, सच्चाई
50. **Deficit** (noun) – Shortfall, deficiency, shortage कमी
51. **Legitimacy deficit** (noun) – The absence of confidence in government.
52. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, lead to, produce, instigate लाना
53. **Turnaround** (noun) – a positive change; improvement बदलाव
54. **Deterioration** (noun) – decline, decay, degradation, worsening, degeneration बिगड़ना
55. **Following** (preposition) – After के बाद
56. **Way out** (phrasal verb) – Solution समाधान
57. **Means** (noun) – method, way, manner, mode, measure माध्यम
58. **Must** (noun) – Compulsory, mandatory अनिवार्य
59. **As things stands** (phrase) – in the present circumstances. वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में।
60. **Sparring** (adjective) – Arguing, wrangling, squabbling, bickering, jousting झगड़ालू
61. **Veer** (toward) (verb) – To turn or swerve very suddenly and forcefully into someone or something, especially in a reckless manner. की तरफ जाना
62. **Intractable** (adjective) – Stubborn, obstinate, inflexible, uncompromising विकट
63. **Flounder** (verb) – struggle, stagger, falter, be in difficulty लड़खड़ाना
64. **Ham-handed** (adjective) – doing things in an awkward or unskilled way when using the hands or dealing with people बेढंगा
65. **Retain** (verb) – keep, hold, maintain, preserve बरकरार रखना
66. **Status quo** (noun) – Existing state of affairs, present situation, current state, वर्तमान स्थिति
67. **Yield** (verb) – give, produce, generate, bring forth उत्पन्न करना
68. **Breakthrough** (noun) – Success, development, improvement, headway, advancement सफलता

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Manipur Assembly's functioning is criticized as being a farce due to recent events.
2. The Assembly met after almost six months from the previous session, in adherence to Article 174(1) of the Constitution.
3. The session was adjourned sine die just 48 minutes after commencing, with only 11 minutes of actual business.
4. 10 MLAs of the Kuki-Zo community were absent during the session.
5. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh claims to have invited the absent Kuki MLAs and assured their safety.
6. The Kuki MLAs refute having spoken with Singh and cite the unstable law and order situation as a reason for their absence.
7. A lack of trust is evident between the legislators of the Kuki-Zo community and the government's leadership, even though they share party affiliations.
8. The session was supposed to start on August 21, but Governor Anusuiya Uikey didn't issue the necessary notification, despite Cabinet advice.
9. The government's ineffectual handling of urgent matters such as displaced residents, weapon recovery, and ethnic tensions is criticized.
10. The Manipur Assembly has previously faced controversy due to neglect of parliamentary conventions.
11. Issues such as rampant defections, like the case of Congress MLA T. Shyamkumar, highlight past controversies.
12. The current BJP government is facing a legitimacy crisis due to its handling of ethnic relations and legislative duties.
13. Ethnic issues are complicated, but constitutional methods are essential to find solutions.
14. The two major conflicting communities in Manipur are growing more opposed as the government struggles.
15. The BJP's attempts to maintain its leadership status quo are considered inadequate for bringing about positive change in the state.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements best describes the recent actions of the Manipur Assembly?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The Manipur Assembly met timely and discussed pressing issues of the state in a detailed manner.
 - B. The Assembly convened after a delay and efficiently addressed the concerns raised by various communities.
 - C. The Assembly met just before the six-month deadline and adjourned in under an hour with minimal business conducted.
 - D. The Assembly gave ample time to the MLAs of different communities to voice their concerns and demands.
2. **Why did the Kuki-Zo community MLAs abstain from the recent session of the Manipur Assembly?**
 - A. They were not informed about the Assembly's timing.
 - B. They doubted the security guarantee offered by the Chief Minister due to the law and order situation in Imphal valley.
 - C. They were protesting against the provisions of Article 174(1) of the Constitution.
 - D. The Governor, Anusuiya Uikey, specifically asked them not to attend.
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements about the Manipur Assembly's previous iteration is NOT true?**
 - (i) The Manipur Assembly had no controversies in the past.
 - (ii) The Assembly didn't pay much attention to parliamentary conventions.
 - (iii) There was a case of a Congress MLA joining the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government.
 - A. Only A
 - B. Only B
 - C. Only C
 - D. Both B and C
4. In the second paragraph, what does the word "**flounder**" mean?
 - A. To succeed remarkably.
 - B. To dance energetically.
 - C. To struggle or stagger clumsily.
 - D. To float effortlessly.
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. A detailed history of Manipur's ethnic communities.
 - B. The role of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in Manipur's development.
 - C. The poor legislative functioning and trust deficit in Manipur's government and assembly.
 - D. The success of the BJP in Manipur's electoral arena.
6. **What does the episode on Tuesday with the Manipur Assembly indicate about the current state of trust between some legislators and the government's leadership?**
 - A. There is a strong bond of trust due to their shared party affiliations.
 - B. Despite having the same party affiliations, there seems to be a breakdown of trust.

- C. Trust is dependent on the ethnicity of the legislator.
D. The trust is strong since the legislators attended the meeting when invited by the Chief Minister.
7. **Based on the given passage, how can the tone of the author towards the functioning of the government and the legislature in Manipur be described?**
A. Appreciative
B. Indifferent
C. Critical
D. Supportive
8. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
You can always dependent on me.
A. depend over me
B. depend for me
C. depend at me
D. depend on me
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Willing to take risks and try new ideas.
A. Resolute
B. Desperate
C. Adventurous
D. Mythical
10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Exuberance
A. Vibrancy
B. Laziness
C. Sympathy
D. Impartiality

Comprehension

From a junior clerk trying to keep his head above water in an unforgiving system to a village school master who loses his home and school to a _____1_____, but continues to prepare his students for hunger — for over five decades, Vinod Kumar Shukla, 86, has captured the story of a changing India through the lives of its invisible citizens. Having spent a lifetime in Chhattisgarh's Raipur, his works — several volumes of poetry, such as Lagbhag Jai Hind (1971), and novels that include the seminal Naukar ki Kameez (1979, later made into a film by Mani Kaul) — capture not the frantic pace of city lives but the slow _____2_____ of small towns, its struggles and aspirations. It is only _____3_____ that the writer, a towering figure in contemporary Indian literature in Hindi, has been honoured with the 2023 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature, one of the most _____4_____ global literary prizes.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
- A. Grave
 - B. Unsettle
 - C. Gale
 - D. Debris
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
- A. Cadence
 - B. Unrestrained
 - C. Unending
 - D. Connection
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. Fitting
 - B. Unceasing
 - C. Foregoing
 - D. Agonizing
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. Doomed
 - B. Ill-fated
 - C. Well-equipped
 - D. Coveted
15. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- A. Beyond being just a cricket tournament, the IPL is a cultural phenomenon that has captured the hearts of millions of fans worldwide.
 - B. It has contributed significantly to India's economy through sports tourism, employment generation, and infrastructure development.
 - C. The 16th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), March to May 2023, kicked off with a coin toss by captains Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) and Hardik Pandya (Gujarat Titans), in Ahmedabad, on March 31, and over 20 crore Indians tuned in to catch the excitement.
 - D. The fact is that the IPL is one of India's most significant cultural and economic events.
- A. CABD B. ABDC C.CDBA D. CBDA
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. At a weekly meeting of our local public speaking club, I spoke to young students on the importance of scheduling — the science of allocating time for their studies.
 - Q. I explained to them that she did it using the “if then” technique.
 - R. I cited an example of how one of my students improved her score in mathematics by managing to recall tables (from one to nine) every day.
 - S. That is, she made a commitment: “If I am going to bed, then I will recollect tables.” And it worked for her.
- A. PSQR B.PSRQ C.SRQP D.PRQS
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. A maniacal urge seized you — to throw anything and everything and declutter the house.

- Q. That is when he made money collecting old newspapers and textbooks.
R. He stopped at each home once the annual school exams were over.
S. The raddiwala was at the door.
A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ
18. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. There is a touch of wry irony in the fact that today most of the news about the Indian Railways concerns Vande Bharat trains, and more particularly
Q. The fact that every new Vande Bharat train is being personally flagged off by the Prime Minister
R. Investigations against some of the top architects of the project on wholly specious grounds
S. For, a little over four years ago, the launch of Train 18, the precursor to the Vande Bharat train, was heralded by the initiation of vigilance
A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
19. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
A. Struggling
B. Bizarre
C. Thunder
D. Stinary
20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Authorities denied his simple request.
A. His simple request has been denied by authorities.
B. His simple request is denied by authorities.
C. His simple request had been denied by authorities.
D. His simple request was denied by authorities.

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- 1. C.) The Assembly met just before the six-month deadline and adjourned in under an hour with minimal business conducted.**
The passage mentions that the Manipur Assembly met just before the stipulated six months, but the session was adjourned sine die only 48 minutes after it began with barely 11 minutes of business.
- 2. B. They doubted the security guarantee offered by the Chief Minister due to the law and order situation in Imphal valley.**
The passage mentions that the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had invited the absentee Kuki MLAs by guaranteeing their security, but they declined by pointing to the law and order situation in the Imphal valley, signifying a lack of trust.
- 3. A. The Manipur Assembly had no controversies in the past.**
The passage states that "The Manipur Assembly is no stranger to controversy." This indicates that there were controversies associated with the Manipur Assembly in the past.
- 4. C. To struggle or stagger clumsily.**
In the context of the passage, "as the government continues to flounder" indicates the government's inability or struggle in handling the situation. Hence, "flounder" here means to struggle or stagger clumsily.
- 5. C) The poor legislative functioning and trust deficit in Manipur's government and assembly.**
The passage primarily discusses the lack of proper functioning in the Manipur Assembly, with references to specific events and situations that highlight the breakdown of trust and the inefficiencies of the legislative process. The core of the passage emphasizes the issues in the functioning of the government and the legislature in the state, including the challenges faced due to ethnic divides and conflicts.
- 6. B. Despite having the same party affiliations, there seems to be a breakdown of trust.**
The passage mentions that the Chief Minister invited absentee Kuki MLAs to the House guaranteeing their security. However, they denied having spoken to him and pointed to the law and order situation as their reason for distrust. This suggests a breakdown of trust even though they share party affiliations.
- 7. C) Critical**
The author uses phrases such as "it is difficult not to term the functioning...a farce", "incomprehensibly, the session was adjourned sine die just 48 minutes after it began", and "the BJP is mistaken if it continues to believe that its ham-handed approach...will yield a breakthrough in the State." These expressions suggest a critical stance toward the functioning of the government and the legislature in Manipur.

8. D) 'dependent on me' के बदले 'depend on me' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'dependent' एक adjective है और यहां क्रिया की आवश्यकता है। सही वाक्यांश 'depend on me' है जो किसी पर निर्भर रहने का अर्थ देता है।
- 'depend on me' will be used instead of 'dependent on me' because 'dependent' is an adjective and a verb is required here. The correct phrase is 'depend on me' which means to rely on someone.
9. C) **Adventurous** (noun) – Willing to take risks and try new ideas. **साहसी**
- **Resolute** (adjective) – admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering. **दृढ़ निश्चयी**
 - **Desperate** (adjective) – feeling or showing a hopeless sense that a situation is so bad as to be impossible to deal with. **निराशा/ हताश**
 - **Mythical** (adjective) – relating to, based on, or appearing in myths or mythological tales. **पौराणिक**
10. A) **Exuberance** (noun) – The quality of being full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness; ebullience, zest, vitality. **उत्साह**
- Synonym: Vibrancy** (noun) – The state of being full of energy and life, vivacity, energy, liveliness. **जीवंतता**
- **Laziness** (noun) – The quality of being unwilling to work or use energy; idleness, inactivity, slothfulness. **आलस्य**
 - **Sympathy** (noun) – Feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else's misfortune; compassion, concern, commiseration. **सहानुभूति**
 - **Impartiality** (noun) – The quality of not being biased; treating all rivals or disputants equally; fairness, justice, objectivity. **निष्पक्षता**
11. C) 'Gale' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "gale" का अर्थ होता है तेज हवा या आंधी जो स्थानीय तत्वों को नष्ट कर सकती है। जबकि 'Grave' का अर्थ है कब्र, 'Unsettle' का अर्थ है अशांत या अस्थायी बनाना, और 'Debris' का अर्थ है मलबा या अवशेष, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Gale' should be used because it refers to a strong wind or storm which can destroy local elements. Whereas, 'Grave' means a burial place, 'Unsettle' means to disturb or make unstable, and 'Debris' implies remains or rubble, which don't fit in this context
12. A) 'Cadence' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "cadence" का अर्थ होता है एक निरंतर और संगत ताल, जिसे छोटे शहरों की धीमी जीवन की गति में देखा जा सकता है। जबकि 'Unrestrained' का अर्थ है अनियंत्रित या स्वतंत्र, 'Unending' का अर्थ है अनंत और 'Connection' का अर्थ है संबंध या जुड़ाव, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'Cadence' should be used because it refers to a rhythmic and consistent flow, reflective of the slow pace of life in small towns. Whereas, 'Unrestrained' implies being unchecked or

free, 'Unending' means infinite, and 'Connection' refers to a relationship or linkage, which don't fit in this context.

13. A.) 'Fitting' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "fitting" का अर्थ है उपयुक्त या सही होना, जो इस संदर्भ में यह बताने के लिए है कि यह समय आया है कि लेखक को पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया जाए। 'Unceasing' का अर्थ है निरंतर, 'Foregoing' का अर्थ है पहले जाना जाने वाला, और 'Agonizing' का अर्थ है पीड़ादायक या कष्टप्रद, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Fitting' should be used because it implies that it's appropriate or due time, suggesting that it is the right time for the writer to be honored with the award. Whereas, 'Unceasing' means continuous, 'Foregoing' means previously mentioned or gone before, and 'Agonizing' means causing great distress or pain, which don't fit in this context.

14. D) 'Coveted' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "coveted" का अर्थ होता है बहुत इच्छित या अधिक प्रशंसा पाने वाला। जबकि 'Doomed', 'Ill-fated', और 'Well-equipped' के अर्थ इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं। यहाँ पुरस्कार की बहुत अधिक इच्छा की बात की जा रही है, इसलिए 'Coveted' सही शब्द है।

- 'Coveted' should be used because it means highly desired or highly prized. Whereas, 'Doomed' implies something that is destined to fail, 'Ill-fated' suggests bad luck or misfortune, and 'Well-equipped' means having the necessary resources or qualities, which don't fit in this context

15. A) CABD

C: This sentence should come first because it introduces the topic of IPL and provides a specific context (the 16th edition of IPL in 2023). It also provides details about the opening of the event, setting the stage for further discussion.

A: This follows sentence C, expanding on the importance of IPL. "Beyond being just a cricket tournament" suggests a shift from the specific event described in sentence C to a broader perspective of IPL's importance.

B: This sentence follows A seamlessly, further elaborating on the significance of IPL by pointing out its contributions to the economy. The pronoun "It" in the beginning of sentence B clearly refers to IPL, which was introduced in sentence A.

D: This sentence concludes the paragraph, wrapping up the theme of the significance of IPL both culturally and economically in India.

16. D) PRQS

P: This is a good introductory sentence. It sets the scene for the discussion about scheduling.

R: After introducing the topic of scheduling in P, a relevant example is presented in R.

Q: Sentence Q uses "she", a pronoun which likely refers to someone introduced earlier. We find this reference in sentence R, which talks about "one of my students". This suggests that R precedes Q.

S: Sentence S refers to the commitment made by "she" (the same student mentioned in R and Q). Hence, S follows Q.

17. C) **SRQP**

S: Starting with S makes sense since it introduces a new character – the raddiwala. This acts as a starting point for the rest of the story.

R: 'He' is a pronoun. From the context, we can deduce that it refers to 'The raddiwala'. Also, this sentence gives us more information about what the raddiwala does and when he does it, making it logical to have it after S.

Q: 'That' refers to the time mentioned in the previous sentence (R) – once the annual school exams were over. This is where he collects old newspapers and textbooks. Hence, Q follows R.

P: The reason for placing P last is twofold. First, from Q, we understand that the raddiwala collects old newspapers and textbooks, implying that households might want to declutter at that time. This makes it a logical continuation from Q. Second, none of the other sentences logically precede or follow this one

18. D) **PQSR**

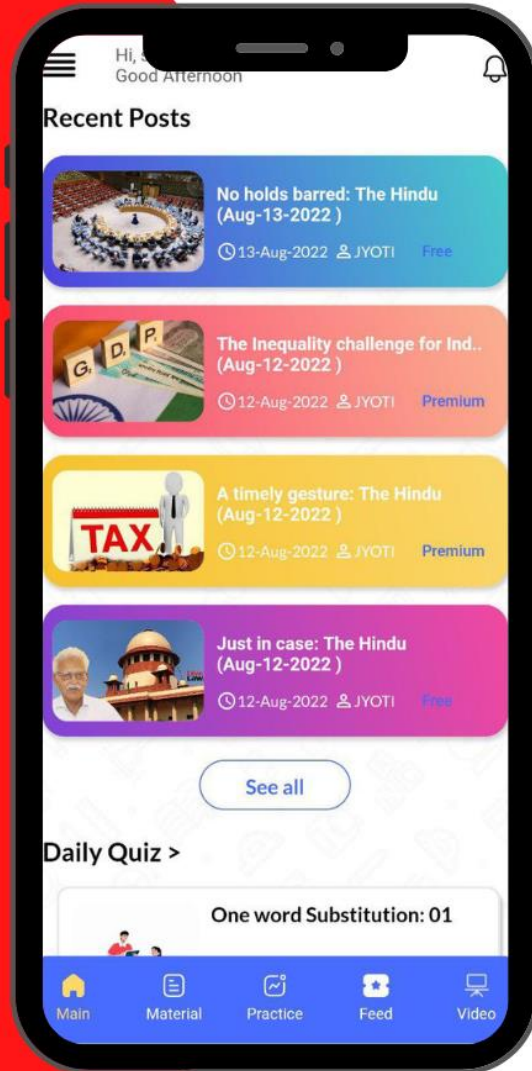
P-Q: The sentence P ends with "more particularly". The natural progression is to specify what that "more particularly" refers to. Sentence Q does that by mentioning the fact that every new Vande Bharat train is being flagged off by the Prime Minister. Thus, PQ forms a coherent pair.

Q-S: Once we have been introduced to the importance of the Vande Bharat train in Q, the phrase "For, a little over four years ago..." in S acts as a time-sequence hint, reflecting back on the early days of the Vande Bharat train (or its precursor, Train 18). This establishes the historical context of the Vande Bharat train's significance and the attention it has been receiving.

S-R: Sentence S ends with "was heralded by the initiation of vigilance". It makes one wonder - vigilance against what? The next logical progression is to explain what this vigilance was regarding, and R provides this information with "Investigations against some of the top architects of the project on wholly specious grounds". Thus, SR forms a coherent pair.

19. D) The correct spelling is '**Stationery**' which means "materials (such as paper, pens, and ink) for writing or typing" लिखावट सामग्री

20. D) His simple request was denied by authorities.



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