

## Express View on India's Asia Cup win: Raising the game

At the end of the **victorious** campaign at Asia Cup whose importance to this Indian team can't be **understated**, came a **revealing soundbite** from captain Rohit Sharma. He talked about the **potential** of R Ashwin playing in the series against Australia — someone who wasn't picked in the World Cup **squad**.

It shows that Rohit isn't getting carried away by success in the **tear-drop-shaped island**; he realises the **imbalance** in the squad and its possible **pitfalls**.

The Asia Cup must have provided **breathing space** to the management to do a **rethink**. It was an **all-boxes-checked** tournament. They had entered it with questions: Can the **rejigged** middle-order **hold up**? Can the top order handle pressure? Can the lower order justify the exclusion of Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal? In the event, the top **held its nerve** against Pakistan in the second game, the middle more than held up in the first match against Pakistan, the lower order, led by Axar Patel, almost **pulled off** a lost cause against Bangladesh.

The **seamers** were fantastic, not just Mohammad Siraj but Jasprit Bumrah also showed he has **retained** the old bite despite a long injury **layoff**.

So if all is well, does this team really need Ashwin? Rohit's comment shows the team hasn't **wandered** into the **realm** of over-confidence. One look around the cricketing world would **disabuse** any team of **notions** of **complacency**.



Packed with genuine allrounders, Australia are **marching on**; **armed** with **ambition** and **Bazball**, England are **rollicking**; with Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller, South Africa are finding their way back to **elite** cricket; and despite the horrors in the final, Sri Lanka have shown how to **cope with** the absence of five **frontline** players to injury.

And no one will take Pakistan lightly despite their **hiccups** in this tournament. How India do now will depend on how **thoroughly** they plan for each game of the World Cup. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Raise the game** (phrase) – to make an effort to improve the way that you do something अपना प्रदर्शन सुधारना
2. **Victorious** (adjective) – Winning, triumphant, champion, prizewinning, successful विजयी
3. **Understate** (verb) – Downplay, minimize, belittle, play down, de-emphasize कम आंकना
4. **Revealing** (adjective) – Disclosing, unveiling, unmasking, telling, informative प्रकट करनेवाला
5. **Soundbite** (noun) – a short extract from a recorded interview or speech, chosen for its succinctness or concision.
6. **Potential** (noun) – Capability, possibility, promise, potentiality, prospect क्षमता
7. **Squad** (noun) – Team, group, crew, unit, brigade दल
8. **Tear-drop-shaped island** (noun) – a description to signify the shape of an island resembling a teardrop.
9. **Imbalance** (noun) – Disparity, inequality, unevenness, disproportion, variance असंतुलन
10. **Pitfall** (noun) – Hazard, danger, risk, snare, trap जोखिम
11. **Breathing space** (noun) – an opportunity to pause, relax, or decide what to do next.
12. **Rethink** (noun) – Reconsideration, revision, re-evaluation, review, reassessment पुनर्विचार
13. **All-boxes-checked** (adjective) – meeting or fulfilling all requirements or criteria.
14. **Rejigged** (adjective) – Rearranged, altered, changed, modified, adjusted पुनर्व्यवस्थित
15. **Hold up** (phrasal verb) – Support, uphold, sustain, maintain, bear बना रहना
16. **Hold one's nerve** (phrase) – to remain calm and confident in a stressful situation.
17. **Pull off** (phrasal verb) – Achieve, accomplish, succeed in: to manage to do something difficult सफल होना
18. **Seamer** (noun) – In the context of cricket, a bowler who specializes in bowling deliveries that seam or swing. क्रिकेट में गेंदबाज
19. **Retain** (verb) – Keep, preserve, maintain, hold on to, keep possession of रखना
20. **Layoff** (noun) – Dismissal, redundancy, unemployment, joblessness नौकरी से निकालना
21. **Wander** (verb) – Roam, drift, meander, stray, travel aimlessly भटकना

22. **Realm** (noun) – Kingdom, domain, territory, province, region दायरा
23. **Disabuse** (verb) – persuade (someone) that an idea or belief is mistaken. (किसी को) यह विश्वास दिलाना कि कोई विचार या विश्वास गलत है।
24. **Notion** (noun) – Idea, belief, concept, perception, view धारणा
25. **Complacency** (noun) – Self-satisfaction, smugness, self-congratulation, self-regard आत्मसंतोष
26. **March** (on) (verb) – Advance, proceed, move forward, progress, push forward प्रस्थान करना
27. **Arm** (with) (verb) – Equip, furnish with, provide, supply with, endow with सज्जित करना
28. **Ambition** (noun) – Aspiration, desire, goal, aim, objective महत्वाकांक्षा
29. **Bazball** (noun) – Bazball is an informal term first coined by sport journalists and bloggers during the 2022 English cricket season referring to the style of play of the England cricket team in Test matches.
30. **Rollicking** (adjective) – Exuberant, lively, spirited, boisterous, buoyant उत्साहपूर्ण
31. **Elite** (adjective) – Superior, best, top, premier, prime उत्कृष्ट
32. **Cope with** (phrasal verb) – Deal with, manage, handle, contend with, grapple with सामना करना
33. **Frontline** (adjective) – Primary, main, leading, foremost, principal प्रमुख
34. **Hiccup** (noun) – a small problem or difficulty छोटी-मोटी समस्या या कठिनाई
35. **Thoroughly** (adverb) – Completely, fully, entirely, totally, utterly पूरी तरह से

### Summary of the Editorial

1. India emerged victorious in the Asia Cup, a significant achievement for the team.
2. Captain Rohit Sharma discussed the potential of R Ashwin playing against Australia, despite him not being picked for the World Cup squad.
3. Rohit Sharma is grounded and recognizes the team's imbalances and potential issues.
4. The Asia Cup offered the team management an opportunity to reevaluate their decisions.
5. Several questions surrounded the Indian team before the tournament, including concerns about the batting order.
6. The top and middle order effectively managed pressure, especially in games against Pakistan.
7. The lower order, especially Axar Patel, showcased their potential in the match against Bangladesh.
8. Seamers like Mohammad Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah performed exceptionally, the latter bouncing back after an injury.
9. Despite the team's success, there's contemplation on the need for R Ashwin in the squad.
10. The Indian team is cautious and hasn't become overconfident.
11. Various global teams like Australia, England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka are showing strong performances and adaptability.
12. Australia is strong with genuine allrounders.
13. England is showing ambition and energy with "Bazball".
14. South Africa is making a comeback in elite cricket with players like Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller.
15. For the upcoming World Cup, India's performance will hinge on their planning and strategy for each game.

**Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based****[Editorial page]**

1. **What is the tone of the third paragraph?**
    - A. Joyous
    - B. Critical
    - C. Analytical
    - D. Sarcastic
  2. **What would be an appropriate title for the passage?**
    - A. The Rise of Ashwin
    - B. The Struggles of Pakistan's Cricket Team
    - C. Evaluating India's Performance and Future Prospects in Cricket
    - D. The Downfall of Sri Lanka in World Cricket
  3. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
    - A. The greatness of Rohit Sharma as a captain.
    - B. The comprehensive achievements of the Indian cricket team in the Asia Cup.
    - C. The history of cricket world cups.
    - D. The need for India to stay grounded and prepare for challenges ahead in the World Cup.
  4. **What can be inferred about captain Rohit Sharma's attitude towards the team's success at the Asia Cup?**
    - A. He believes the team's success at the Asia Cup guarantees their victory in the World Cup.
    - B. He recognizes that despite the Asia Cup win, there are areas in the team that need addressing.
    - C. He feels that R Ashwin was not a significant player for the World Cup squad.
    - D. He thinks the World Cup is less important than the Asia Cup.
  5. **Based on the passage, which statement accurately reflects the performance of the Indian team during the Asia Cup?**
    - A. Axar Patel and the lower order nearly succeeded in a challenging match against Bangladesh.
    - B. The top order failed to handle pressure against Pakistan.
    - C. The seamers, including Mohammad Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah, delivered disappointing performances.
    - D. The management felt no need for re-evaluation after the Asia Cup.
- Direction (Q6 – Q10): The question below consists of a set of labeled sentences. Out of the four options given, select the most logical order of the sentences to form a coherent paragraph**
6. **P.** As a boy Elon was a keen reader and learnt how to code computers.  
**Q.** He even made his own video game called Blstar.

- R. Later he moved to Canada and then the United States setting up his first company with his brother Kimbal in 1995.
- S. But after some time, he sold that company to create a company called X.com.
- A. RPSQ
  - B. PRSQ
  - C. SQRP
  - D. PQRS
7. P. Many deadwood beetle species recycle the nutrients of woodlands.
- Q. Some deadwood beetles are predators or parasitoids to other insect species and restrict population growth of potential pests.
- R. Others have recently been found to be pollinators.
- S. Working alongside fungi, bacteria and other invertebrates, they break down dead wood and return the nutrients back to the soil.
- A. PSQR
  - B. RPSQ
  - C. PRQS
  - D. QPRS
8. P. In Tokyo, they built an expressway linking the international airport in Haneda to the centre, and widened some of the city's major arteries.
- Q. These infrastructure improvements helped to bring about the Japanese economic miracle over the next couple of decades.
- R. Tokyo 2020 was supposed to be a great economic stimulus, replicating the achievements of Tokyo 1964.
- S. It was thanks to hosting that Olympics that Japan invested in infrastructure such as the famous Shinkansen bullet train.
- A. RSPQ
  - B. QPRS
  - C. SRQP
  - D. PQRS
9. P. You can use proper lighting, reduce screen glare, and take more breaks.
- Q. However, one of the easiest habits to build is to follow the "20-20-20 rule".
- R. There are lots of ways you can protect your eyes during the day.
- S. Every 20 minutes of time spent staring at a screen, look away at an option that is at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds.
- A. SQPR
  - B. QRSP
  - C. RPQS
  - D. SPRQ

10. **A.** Shalini was scrolling down the phone screen while waiting for her friend.  
**B.** Her friend brought a bouquet for Shalini from the market place.  
**C.** When her friend arrived, they went to the market place.  
**D.** The market place was thronging with people.
- A. BACD  
B. DACB  
C. ABCD  
D. ACDB
11. **Select the correctly spelt option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**  
The goods were taken on a public career.
- A. carier  
B. carryer  
C. carrier  
D. courier
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**  
Is there any portal to redeem these coupons that I have collected from the store?
- A. Use  
B. deplore  
C. forfeit  
D. embezzle
13. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom/phrase in the given sentence.**  
Today, the country's nationalists rule the roost and hand out the jobs.
- A. To be in charge  
B. To be prejudiced  
C. To save a criminal  
D. To exploit someone
14. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Keep someone at arm's length
- A. Avoid becoming friendly with someone  
B. Avoid playing with someone  
C. Being someone's enemy  
D. Avoid becoming bitter with someone
15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word given in the sentence.**  
The efforts will be \_\_\_\_\_ (vain) if we do not submit the project report on Time
- A. useless  
B. careless  
C. delightful  
D. sensible
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The patient looked \_\_\_\_\_ and tired.

- A. pail
- B. pale
- C. Pall
- D. Peel

17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Natwar was a fraudster who always tried to fooling others.

- A. betraying
- B. deceive
- C. cheating
- D. revealing

18. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Consent

- A. Avert
- B. Assent
- C. Disturb
- D. Dissent

19. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A place to play games and bet on them

- A. Motel
- B. Hotel
- C. Casino
- D. Pub

20. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

Karan call the restaurant/ to ask if he could/ reserve a table for tomorrow.

- A. Karan call the restaurant
- B. reserve a table for tomorrow
- C. to ask if he could
- D. No error

**Comprehension:**

**In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.**

We must understand that people can process very little information presented orally. So, it is (1) \_\_\_\_\_, particularly for a teacher, to realise that the students have sometimes listened to three or four teachers (2) \_\_\_\_\_ you. So, the teacher must have props like notes, handouts and slides that will make the learning material (3) \_\_\_\_\_ alive for the students and stay that way with them. A visual aid, a little movement or colour will get the students' attention. Another important thing to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ is that



long, complicated sentences spoken fast are simply too difficult for students to understand. It is, therefore, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to use short sentences that make sense to them instantly.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**

- A. urgent
- B. immaterial
- C. unnecessary
- D. important

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**

- A. behind
- B. beside
- C. before
- D. after

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**

- A. stay
- B. depart
- C. go
- D. come

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**

- A. guess
- B. detect
- C. realise
- D. decide

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. compulsory
- B. advisable
- C. mandatory
- D. prohibited

**Answers**

1. C    2. C    3. D    4. B    5. A    6. D    7.A    8. A    9. C    10. D    11.C    12.C  
 13. A    14. A    15. A    16.B    17. B    18. B    19. C    20. A    21. D    22. C    23. D    24. C  
 25. B

**[Practice Exercise]****Explanation**

1. C) The third paragraph is evaluating the performance of various segments of the Indian cricket team in the Asia Cup, looking at how they fared in different situations. It takes an analytical approach, assessing each section's successes and challenges.
2. C) The passage primarily focuses on India's recent performance in the Asia Cup, the reflections of the captain Rohit Sharma on the team composition, and India's potential challenges in the upcoming World Cup. The title option c captures this essence most aptly.
3. D) While the passage does mention the achievements of the Indian cricket team in the Asia Cup, its larger theme revolves around Rohit Sharma's cognizance of the team's potential shortcomings and the importance for the team to remain vigilant and not get overly confident as they prepare for the World Cup.
4. B) The passage mentions that Rohit Sharma isn't getting "carried away by success" and that he sees the "imbalance in the squad and its possible pitfalls". This suggests that he is cautious and understands that there are challenges ahead despite the recent victory.
5. A) The passage specifically mentions that "the lower order, led by Axar Patel, almost pulled off a lost cause against Bangladesh", indicating their commendable effort in that particular match. The other options either directly contradict or are not mentioned in the passage.
6. D) PQRS
 

P. As a boy Elon was a keen reader and learnt how to code computers.

  - This sentence introduces Elon's early life, mentioning his interest in reading and coding.

Q. He even made his own video game called Blastar.

  - This sentence expands on his coding interest by citing a specific example of a video game he created.

R. Later he moved to Canada and then the United States setting up his first company with his brother Kimbal in 1995.

  - This sentence jumps ahead in time to discuss Elon's migration and the establishment of his first company.

S. But after some time, he sold that company to create a company called X.com.

  - This sentence gives us what happened after the establishment of his first company and precedes his ventures into other companies.
7. A) PSQR
  - P: The sentence introduces us to deadwood beetles and their role in recycling the nutrients of woodlands.

- S: Sentence S logically extends the idea presented in P. The words "Working alongside fungi, bacteria and other invertebrates, they break down dead wood..." explains the process of how the beetles recycle the nutrients, making it clear that S should follow P.
- Q: Sentence Q gives a different perspective of some deadwood beetles which act as predators or parasitoids. This new information on beetles can follow after explaining their primary role (as introduced in P and S).
- R: Sentence R provides another piece of fresh information about a different function of some other deadwood beetles. Thus, it makes sense for it to come after Q, which also introduced a distinct role.

## 8. A) RSPQ

R: Tokyo 2020 was supposed to be a great economic stimulus, replicating the achievements of Tokyo 1964.

- This sentence introduces the concept of Tokyo 2020 attempting to replicate the successes of Tokyo 1964.

S: It was thanks to hosting that Olympics that Japan invested in infrastructure such as the famous Shinkansen bullet train.

- Sentence S provides specific details about the achievements from Tokyo 1964, which refers back to the earlier reference in R.

P: In Tokyo, they built an expressway linking the international airport in Haneda to the centre, and widened some of the city's major arteries.

- Sentence P provides details about more infrastructural developments that happened due to the Olympics, following the context set by S.

Q: These infrastructure improvements helped to bring about the Japanese economic miracle over the next couple of decades.

- Sentence Q talks about the outcomes of the infrastructure improvements mentioned in P.

## 9. C) RPQS

R introduces the general idea that there are many ways to protect your eyes during the day.

P follows by providing some of those specific ways.

Q introduces a specific method, the "20-20-20 rule" as an easy habit, which seems to build on the specific ways mentioned in P.

S elaborates on what the "20-20-20 rule" is, which is a direct continuation from Q.

## 10. D) ACDB

A. Shalini was waiting → C. The friend arrived and they went to the market → D. Description of the market → B. Friend's action in the market.

## 11. C) The correct spelling of the underlined word in the sentence "The goods were taken on a public (career)" is 'carrier'.

- "carrier" means "a person or company that undertakes the professional conveyance of goods or people." In Hindi, it can be translated as "वाहक" or "परिवहन करने वाला."
12. C) **Redeem** (verb) – To exchange, to recover, to cash in, to retrieve, to convert into something of value. वसूल करना  
Antonym: **Forfeit** (verb) – To lose, to give up, to surrender, to be deprived of something because of a breach of obligation or penalty. खोना
- **Use** (verb) – To employ, to utilize, to consume, to make use of. उपयोग करना
  - **Deplore** (verb) – To feel or express strong disapproval, to regret, to lament. खेद प्रकट करना
  - **Embezzle** (verb) – To steal or misappropriate money, especially that which has been entrusted to one's care. गबन करना
13. A) **Rule the roost** (idiom) – To be in charge शासन करना, राज्य करना
14. A) **Keep someone at arm's length** (idiom) – Avoid becoming friendly with someone किसी से मित्रता न करना
15. A) **Vain** (adjective) – Having no real value or significance; unproductive, fruitless, useless. व्यर्थ  
**Synonym:** **Useless** (adjective) – Serving no purpose; not producing any effect, unproductive. बेकार
- **Careless** (adjective) – Not paying enough attention to something, negligent, thoughtless. लापरवाह
  - **Delightful** (adjective) – Causing delight, very pleasant, enjoyable. सुखद
  - **Sensible** (adjective) – Reasonable, practical, wise. समझदार
16. B) **'Pale'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence मरीज की थकान और बीमारी की चर्चा कर रहा है। "Pale" का तात्पर्य रंग से बहुत अधिक फीका हो जाना है, जो किसी की थकान या बीमारी को दर्शाने के लिए आम रूप से प्रयोग होता है। इसलिए, "pale" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- **'Pale'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the patient's fatigue and illness. The term "pale" refers to being unusually light in color, often used to depict someone's exhaustion or sickness. Thus, "pale" would be the most appropriate choice.
17. B) **'fooling'** के बदले 'deceive' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'who' के बाद verb इस मामले में Infinitive Form में होगी;
- **deceive'** will be used instead of 'fooling' because after 'who,' the verb in this case will be in the Infinitive Form

18. B) **Consent** (verb) – To agree to do or allow something, to give permission for something, to approve. सहमति

Synonym: **Assent** (verb) – To agree or express agreement, acceptance, approval. स्वीकृति

- **Avert** (verb) – To turn away or aside, to prevent or avoid. टालना
- **Disturb** (verb) – To interrupt, bother, upset, unsettle. परेशान करना
- **Dissent** (verb) – To disagree, differ in opinion, withhold assent. असहमति

19. C) **Casino** (noun) – A place where people go to gamble, play various games, and bet on them. कैसीनो

- **Motel** (noun) – A roadside hotel designed primarily for motorists, typically having the rooms arranged in a low building with parking directly outside. मोटेल
- **Hotel** (noun) – An establishment providing accommodation, meals, and other services for travelers and tourists. होटल
- **Pub** (noun) – A place for drinking and socializing, often serving food; short for "public house." पब

20. A) 'call' के बदले 'called' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Sentence Past Tense में है, अतः Verb भी Past Tense में होगा; जैसे— It was Ram, Laxman and Sita who went to the forest

- 'called' will be used instead of 'call' because the Sentence is in Past Tense, so the Verb will also be in Past Tense; Like— It was Ram, Laxman and Sita who went to the forest.

21. D) The context of the passage is discussing the need for effective communication, especially in a teaching environment. It emphasizes the importance of visual aids and clear, concise language to help students understand the material. Given this context, the most appropriate word to fill in blank no. 1 is "important." It is vital for a teacher to recognize the need for engaging tools and simplicity in communication to facilitate student understanding. Therefore, the correct option is

- **urgent** (adjective) – Requiring immediate attention or action, अत्यावश्यक
- **immaterial** (adjective) – Lacking importance or relevance, अमहत्वपूर्ण
- **unnecessary** (adjective) – Not needed, अनावश्यक
- **important** (adjective) – Of great significance or value, often in a particular context, महत्वपूर्ण

22. C) The context of the passage revolves around the challenges of oral communication in teaching. It emphasizes the limitations of auditory processing and the need for visual aids to enhance comprehension, particularly when considering that students might have been exposed to multiple teachers in a short period of time. The correct term to use in this context is one that indicates a sequence of teachers a student might encounter over a period of time.

- **Behind** (preposition) – At or to the rear of, पीछे

- **Beside** (preposition) – Next to or at the side of, के बगल में
- **Before** (preposition) – Earlier in time than, पहले
- **After** (preposition) – Following in time, order, or place, बाद में

23. D) The context of the passage discusses the methods teachers should employ to make learning materials more engaging and memorable for students. The author emphasizes the use of props like notes, handouts, and slides to make the learning material more alive and emphasizes the importance of holding students' attention. In this context, the word "come" fits best in blank no. 3, as it indicates that the learning material should come alive for the students, meaning it should become engaging and relatable.

- **Stay** (verb) – To remain in place, to continue to be in a particular state, ठहरना
- **Depart** (verb) – To leave, especially on a journey, रवाना होना
- **Go** (verb) – To move or travel from one place to another, जाना
- **Come** (verb) – To move or travel toward the speaker or toward a specified place; to arrive, आना

24. C) The context of the passage is discussing the methods and strategies a teacher can employ to enhance the students' understanding of the material being taught. When considering blank no. 4, the most fitting term would be "realise," as the teacher must become aware of or recognize the challenges that can arise when delivering complex information orally to students. The emphasis on understanding and being mindful of the students' needs aligns with the term "realise." The other options, "guess," "detect," and "decide," do not fit as seamlessly into the context of this passage.

- **Realise** (verb) – To understand or become aware of a particular fact or situation, समझना
- **Guess** (verb) – To form an opinion or give an answer about something when you do not know much or anything about it, अनुमान लगाना
- **Detect** (verb) – To discover or notice the existence of something, पता लगाना
- **Decide** (verb) – To make a choice about something, especially after thinking about it carefully, तय करना

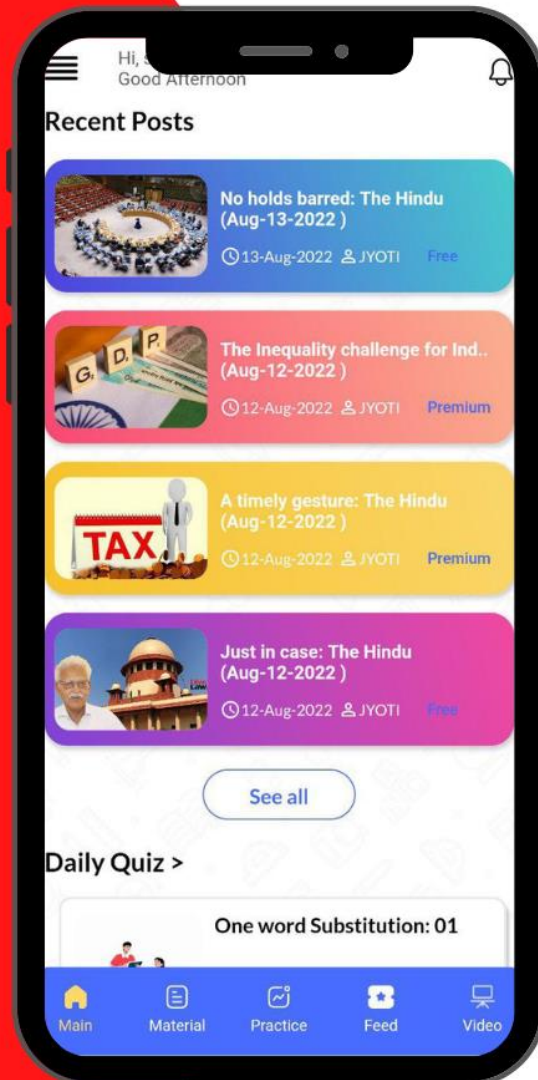
25. B) The context of the passage is discussing the ways to make teaching more effective and accessible for students. The passage emphasizes the need for teachers to use tools and methods that cater to the students' ability to process information. In this context, the use of short sentences that make sense to the students instantly is not described as something that is "compulsory" or "mandatory," nor is it described as "prohibited." Rather, it is something that would be wise or recommended, making the term "advisable" the most fitting choice for blank no. 5. The answer, therefore, is

- **Compulsory** (adjective) – Required by law or rule; obligatory, अनिवार्य
- **Advisable** (adjective) – Wise to do under the circumstances; recommended, उचित

- **Mandatory** (adjective) – Required by laws or rules; obligatory, अनिवार्य
- **Prohibited** (adjective) – Forbidden by law or rule, वर्जित

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