

Express View on One Nation One Election: No last word

The High Level Committee on **Simultaneous** Elections, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, **has unanimously** recommended that polls to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats be held at the same time. This is no surprise. With Congress Leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury refusing to participate, the eight-member panel comprised those mostly seen to agree with the government's views on the proposal. Its terms of reference also carried the **presumption** that simultaneous polls are in "national interest". The question, then, is whether the Kovind Committee report has **merely rubber-stamped** the government's proposal or if its conclusions are a product of considered **deliberations**. The report says that the panel invited suggestions and comments from political parties, legal experts, former election commissioners, economists, representatives of business organisations and members of the Bar Council. It says that "the committee carefully considered all the constitutional and legal objections" and its members "studied the relevant legal literature on elections, both in India and abroad". Unfortunately, **in its substance, tone and tenor**, the document does not seem **informed** by "in-depth research and analysis" and "participatory processes".

Simultaneous elections will **impose** an **artificial unitary** character on a **federal** system of multiple **diversities**. The report, at best, engages **cursorily** with this concern. Instead, its 320-odd pages **belabour** "that separate elections cause a waste of resources, **result in policy paralysis** and **inflict** huge socio-economic costs, besides **leading to voter fatigue**". This is only a **harkening back to the raison d'être cited** by the government in September last year when it **mooted** One Nation One Election (ONOE). The document notes that 15 political parties have opposed the move, but there is little by way of engaging with, or **addressing**, their **criticism** or that of **dissenters** like Tamil Nadu Election Commissioner, V Palanikumar, who told the panel that "ONOE could potentially **dilute** the focus on region-specific challenges and **diminish** the **efficacy** of local **governance**". The **suggestion** of former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Sanjib Banerjee — "state funding of elections is a more effective reform to tackle **inefficiency**" — **finds** a mention. So do the concerns of former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, AP Shah, "that simultaneous elections **hinder** political **accountability** as fixed terms offer representatives **unwarranted stability** without performance **scrutiny**." These **compelling** arguments have been **crunched** into a few sentences in the report. Unfortunately, the report does nothing more than dismiss these **apprehensions** as "**misplaced**".

Undoubtedly, the Indian **electorate** is, as the report says, "**sagacious** enough to differentiate between national and regional issues, as also between national and regional parties". But ONOE could **flatten** the political **diversity** that has **marked** India's electoral calendar since the Sixties when the **synchronicity** of the election calendar was first broken. Much has changed in the Indian polity since then, including the **ascendance** of regional parties in large parts of the country. The Samajwadi Party's response **underlined** the fear that "State-level parties will not be able to compete with national parties in electoral strategy and expenditure", which too does not seem to adequately **draw the attention of** the committee. The panel's report cannot be the last word on a proposal with **far-reaching**

consequences that go beyond political-**ideological lines**. In days to come, the **legitimate concerns** of those who disagree **must** be heard respectfully, and **heeded**. [\[Audio Explanation\]](#) [\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

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

Summary of the Editorial

1. The High Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, recommended simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats.
2. The committee had members mostly seen to agree with the government's views, with Congress Leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury refusing to participate.
3. The terms of reference assumed that simultaneous polls are in "national interest."
4. The report claims to have considered suggestions from various stakeholders, including political parties, legal experts, and former election commissioners.
5. The document is criticized for not being informed by in-depth research and participatory processes.
6. Simultaneous elections are seen as imposing a unitary character on a federal system with diverse entities.
7. The report mainly focuses on the government's arguments for simultaneous elections, such as resource conservation, avoiding policy paralysis, and reducing voter fatigue.
8. Fifteen political parties opposed the move, but their criticisms were not adequately addressed in the report.
9. The report dismisses concerns about diluting regional focus and diminishing local governance efficacy as "misplaced."
10. Former Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee suggested state funding of elections as a more effective reform, which was mentioned but not explored in depth.
11. Former Chief Justice AP Shah raised concerns about simultaneous elections hindering political accountability, which were only briefly mentioned.
12. The report assumes that the electorate can differentiate between national and regional issues, but this could flatten political diversity.
13. Regional parties' concerns, such as the Samajwadi Party's fear of being unable to compete with national parties, were not adequately addressed.
14. The report is not seen as the final word on the proposal due to its far-reaching consequences.
15. There is a call for respectful and attentive consideration of the legitimate concerns of those who disagree with the proposal.

Vocabulary

1. **Simultaneous** (adjective) – Occurring at the same time, concurrent, synchronous, coexistent, parallel एक ही समय में होनेवाला
2. **Unanimously** (adverb) – Without opposition, collectively, uniformly, consensually, harmoniously एकमत से
3. **Presumption** (noun) – Assumption, supposition, belief, expectation, conjecture धारणा
4. **Merely** (adverb) – Simply, just, only, solely, purely केवल
5. **Rubber-stamp** (verb) – Approve automatically, endorse without scrutiny, sanction without question, validate unquestioningly आँख मूंदकर मंजूर करना
6. **Deliberation** (noun) – Consideration, thought, reflection, contemplation, discussion विचार-विमर्श
7. **In one's substance** (phrase) – In essence, fundamentally, essentially, in its core मूल रूप में
8. **Tone and tenor** (phrase) – General character or attitude, mood, spirit, manner लहजा और स्वर
9. **Informed** (adjective) – Knowledgeable, enlightened, educated, well-informed, aware सूचित
10. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, apply, levy, establish, inflict थोपना
11. **Artificial** (adjective) – Man-made, synthetic, unnatural, fabricated, false कृत्रिम
12. **Unitary** (adjective) – Centralized, unified, single, consolidated, cohesive इकाई संबंधी
13. **Federal** (adjective) – National, governmental, constitutional, state, regional संघीय
14. **Diversity** (noun) – Variety, multiplicity, range, assortment, heterogeneity विविधता
15. **Cursorily** (adverb) – Hastily, quickly, superficially, briefly, perfunctorily सरसरी रूप से
16. **Belabour** (verb) – argue or discuss (a subject) in excessive detail. विस्तार से विचार करना
17. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, effect परिणामस्वरूप
18. **Policy paralysis** (noun) – Inability to act or make decisions due to excessive bureaucracy or indecision नीतिगत पक्षाघात
19. **Inflict** (verb) – Impose, administer, mete out, impose, deliver पहुँचाना

20. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, produce, provoke वजह बनना
21. **Fatigue** (noun) – Tiredness, exhaustion, weariness, lethargy, languor थकावट
22. **Harkening back to** (phrase) – Recalling, reminiscing, remembering, looking back to, referring to पीछे मुड़कर देखना; वापस याद दिलाना
23. **The raison d'etre** (noun) – The reason for existence, justification, purpose, basis, cause अस्तित्व का कारण
24. **Cite** (verb) – Refer to, mention, allude to, quote, invoke हवाला देना
25. **Moot** (verb) – Propose, suggest, raise, introduce, bring up प्रस्तावित करना
26. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, attend to, tackle, confront, handle सुलझाना, निपटाना
27. **Criticism** (noun) – Disapproval, censure, condemnation, denunciation, objection आलोचना
28. **Dissenter** (noun) – Objector, protester, nonconformist, rebel, dissident असहमत व्यक्ति
29. **Dilute** (verb) – Weaken, reduce, lessen, diminish, water down कम करना
30. **Diminish** (verb) – Decrease, reduce, lessen, weaken, attenuate कम करना
31. **Efficacy** (noun) – Effectiveness, efficiency, potency, power, capability प्रभावकारिता
32. **Governance** (noun) – Administration, management, control, direction, regulation प्रशासन
33. **Inefficiency** (noun) – Ineffectiveness, incompetence, inadequacy, unproductiveness, incapacity अक्षमता
34. **Hinder** (verb) – Obstruct, impede, inhibit, hamper, block बाधा डालना
35. **Accountability** (noun) – Responsibility, answerability, liability, obligation, duty जवाबदेही
36. **Unwarranted** (adjective) – Unjustified, unnecessary, undue, excessive, unwelcome अनावश्यक
37. **Stability** (noun) – Steadiness, firmness, solidity, durability, constancy स्थिरता
38. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Examination, inspection, analysis, review, investigation जाँच
39. **Compelling** (adjective) – Persuasive, convincing, forceful, strong, powerful आकर्षक
40. **Crunch** (into) (verb) – Compress, condense, summarize, abbreviate, reduce संक्षिप्त करना
41. **Apprehension** (noun) – Fear, anxiety, concern, worry, unease आशंका

42. **Misplaced** (adjective) – Unjustified, unwarranted, inappropriate, misguided, ill-advised अनुचित
43. **Electorate** (noun) – Voters, constituency, the public, the people, citizens मतदाता
44. **Sagacious** (adjective) – Wise, intelligent, judicious, prudent, insightful बुद्धिमान
45. **Flatten** (verb) – Level, even out, smooth, flatten out, press flat समतल करना
46. **Diversity** (noun) – Variety, multiplicity, heterogeneity, range, assortment विविधता
47. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, signify, denote, characterize, distinguish चिह्नित करना
48. **Synchronicity** (noun) – Simultaneity, concurrence, coincidence, simultaneous occurrence समकालिकता
49. **Ascendance** (noun) – Dominance, superiority, preeminence, predominance, ascendancy प्रभुत्व
50. **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accentuate रेखांकित करना
51. **Draw the attention of** (phrase) – Attract, focus, highlight, spotlight, emphasize ध्यान खींचना
52. **Far-reaching** (adjective) – Extensive, wide-ranging, comprehensive, sweeping, profound व्यापक
53. **Ideological** (adjective) – Doctrinal, philosophical, theoretical, dogmatic, political वैचारिक
54. **Lines** (noun) – Paths, routes, courses, trajectories, directions की तर्ज पर
55. **Legitimate** (adjective) – Legal, lawful, rightful, valid, authorized वैध
56. **Heed** (verb) – Pay attention to, take notice of, listen to, consider, observe ध्यान देना

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why did the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections recommend holding polls for the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats at the same time?**
A. To enhance voter turnout [Editorial Page]
B. To promote national integration
C. To reduce policy paralysis and voter fatigue
D. To increase the number of political parties
2. **Which concern regarding simultaneous elections is mentioned in the report but not adequately engaged with?**
A. The impact on national security
B. The dilution of focus on region-specific challenges
C. The increase in electoral fraud
D. The effect on international relations
3. **What kind of challenge to simultaneous elections is highlighted by the Samajwadi Party's response in the report?**
A. Legal challenges
B. Financial challenges
C. Technological challenges
D. Strategic challenges
4. **What can be inferred about the High-Level Committee's approach to addressing criticisms against simultaneous elections?**
A. The committee thoroughly engaged with all criticisms and provided detailed counterarguments.
B. The committee acknowledged the criticisms but did not provide substantial engagement or solutions.
C. The committee completely ignored all criticisms and focused solely on the benefits of simultaneous elections.
D. The committee proposed alternative solutions to address each criticism individually.
5. **What can be inferred about the potential impact of One Nation One Election (ONOE) on political diversity in India?**
A. ONOE will enhance political diversity by giving equal opportunities to all parties.
B. ONOE is likely to have a negligible impact on political diversity as the electorate is sagacious enough to differentiate between national and regional issues.
C. ONOE could potentially flatten political diversity, impacting the electoral strategies of state-level parties.
D. ONOE will lead to the emergence of new political parties, thereby increasing diversity.
6. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
A. Adequate

- B. Precaution
- C. Cowardise
- D. Ridiculous

7. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Clear

- A. Clean
- B. Opaque
- C. Mess
- D. Untidy

8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

Myra installed the new software on her computer.

- A. The new software had installed Myra on her computer.
- B. The new software is installed by Myra on her computer.
- C. The new software were install by Myra on her computer.
- D. The new software was installed by Myra on her computer.

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

By quiet efforts to seek a meeting point between differing/ viewpoints of individuals or organisations/ mediation is rarely a spontaneous act;/ more often than not it is preceded

- A. Mediation is rarely a spontaneous act; by quiet efforts to seek a meeting point between differing viewpoints of individuals or organisations more often than not it is preceded
- B. Mediation is rarely a spontaneous act; more often than not it is preceded by quiet efforts to seek a meeting point between differing viewpoints of individuals or organisations.
- C. By quiet efforts to seek a meeting point between differing mediation is rarely a spontaneous act; more often than not it is preceded viewpoints of individuals or organisations
- D. More often than not it is preceded by quiet efforts to seek a meeting point between differing mediation is rarely a spontaneous act; viewpoints of individuals or organisations

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

As things stand, I don't think we'll be able to meet the deadline.

- A. To get everything organized
- B. In the current situation
- C. To disagree completely
- D. To work very hard

Comprehension

The world of work is changing faster than the workforce. To survive technological developments and automation, workers must upgrade their skills. India surpasses China as the world's most populous country in demographic composition, with a staggering 65 per cent working-age population having an average age of 28 years old. This population has the

potential to propel the nation towards remarkable socio-economic progress and has the ability for transformative global impact. To _____1_____ the benefit of demographic advantage, it is ____2____ to equip our working population with employable skills and knowledge that meet the requirements of the globalized labour market. Skill development in educational institutions _____3_____ the critical enabler for improving employment outcomes and higher productivity leading to faster and more sustainable economic growth. There is a significant gap between the skills _____4_____ in educational institutions in India and the skills required for jobs.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Reap
- B. Impede
- C. Exacerbate
- D. Entrust

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

- A. Continuous
- B. Imperative
- C. Inaccurate
- D. Apprehensive

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

- A. Is
- B. Are
- C. Was
- D. Were

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

- A. Accomplishment
- B. Estranged
- C. Imparted
- D. Yearning

15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

My energy waned to see my college team performing poorly in the match.

- A. Declined
- B. Dimmed
- C. Abated
- D. Grew

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

- P. According to media reports, these names include “two residential areas, five mountain peaks, two rivers, and two other areas”.
- Q. For the third time in recent years, China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs, on April 2, made a provocative move by releasing new names for 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh under the fig

leaf of standardising geographical names in “Zangnan” (a phoney term invented by Beijing to claim that Arunachal Pradesh is “South Tibet”).

R. It had also ‘standardised’ the names of 15 places in 2021, which had similarly included population centres, mountains, rivers, and a mountain pass.

S. In 2017, China had ‘renamed’ six places that lie in Arunachal Pradesh.

- A. QRPS B. QPSR C. PSRQ D. PRQS

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

P. In both cohorts, most students were from the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Castes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Marginalisation and deprivation are factors but one also finds a wide spectrum of students.

Q. In the 2014-21 septennial, there were 122 cases in various higher education institutions.

R. During the 2018-23 quinquennial, there were as many as 61 students fading away: in the Indian Institutes of Technology, or IITs (33), the National Institutes of Technology, or NITs (24) and the Indian Institutes of Management (4).

S. To read newspaper reports about young students ending their lives is disturbing.

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

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

P. Despite this, the tree continued to thrive as a symbol of fortitude and hope.

Q. A huge tamarind tree, more than a century old, stood at the edge of the courtyard of my wife’s ancestral home.

R. A few years ago, it was struck by lightning.

S. All through the year, the tree bore fruit.

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

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

P. A book club is the last refuge of the failed author

Q. When commissioning editors of publishing houses large and small demonstrate

R. You turn to a group of people, preferably a club, which offers first-aid to wounded egos, providing sometimes sympathy and sometimes tea

S. Impressive solidarity in the view that your unsung masterpiece is unfit for human consumption, you look around desperately for solace

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

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

P. In appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) by forming a committee to suggest suitable names to man these constitutional posts

Q. In a hearing of the ‘Sena versus Sena’ case, the Court expressed its “serious concern” over the active role being played by Governors in State politics, observing that Governors becoming part of political processes is disconcerting.

R. Two recent comments of the Supreme Court of India will have direct bearing on the concept of the independence of various constitutional authorities in India

S. And, earlier, taking an important step in ensuring independence of the Election Commission of India, the Court divested the executive of its sole discretion

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

Answers

1. C 2. B 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. C 7. B 8.D 9.B 10.B 11.A

2. B 13.A 14.C 15.D 16.B 17.C 18.C 19.D 20.B

[Practice Exercise]**Explanation**

1. C) The committee recommended simultaneous elections to address issues such as the waste of resources, policy paralysis, and voter fatigue caused by separate elections.
2. B) The report mentions the concern that simultaneous elections could dilute the focus on region-specific challenges, as highlighted by Tamil Nadu Election Commissioner V Palanikumar, but does not adequately engage with this criticism.
3. D) The Samajwadi Party's response highlights the strategic challenge that state-level parties may not be able to compete with national parties in electoral strategy and expenditure if simultaneous elections are implemented.
4. B) The passage suggests that while the committee noted the criticisms, it did not engage with them in depth or address them adequately, as seen in the cursory engagement with concerns about the federal system and the dismissal of apprehensions as "misplaced".
5. C) The passage suggests that ONOE could flatten the political diversity that has characterized India's electoral calendar, particularly affecting state-level parties' ability to compete with national parties in terms of strategy and expenditure
6. C) The incorrectly spelt word among the options is '**Cowardise**'. The correct spelling is 'Cowardice'. It refers to the lack of bravery or the trait of being easily scared or timid. कायरता, भीतिपूर्ण.
7. B) **Clear** (adjective) – Transparent, easy to perceive, unambiguous, understandable. स्पष्ट
Antonym: Opaque (adjective) – Not able to be seen through; not transparent, obscure, non-transparent. अपारदर्शी
 - **Clean** (adjective) – Free from dirt, marks, or stains, pure, unsoiled. साफ़
 - **Mess** (noun) – A dirty or untidy state of things or of a place, disorder, clutter. अव्यवस्था
 - **Untidy** (adjective) – Not arranged neatly and in order, messy, disorganized. अस्त-व्यस्त
8. D) The new software was installed by Myra on her computer.
9. B) Mediation is rarely a spontaneous act; more often than not it is preceded by quiet efforts to seek a meeting point between differing viewpoints of individuals or organisations.
10. B) **As things stand** (phrase) – In the current situation: वर्तमान स्थिति में
11. A) 'Reap' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "reap" का अर्थ होता है प्राप्त करना. जबकि 'Impede' का अर्थ है रुकावट डालना, 'Exacerbate' का अर्थ है बढ़ाना, और 'Entrust' का अर्थ है सौंपना या भरोसा करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Reap' should be used because it means to gain, gather or harvest. Whereas, 'Impede' means to hinder or obstruct, 'Exacerbate' means to increase or intensify, and 'Entrust' means to delegate or trust, which don't fit in this context.
12. B) 'Imperative' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "imperative" का अर्थ होता है अत्यंत आवश्यक या जरूरी। जबकि 'Continuous' का अर्थ है लगातार, 'Inaccurate' का अर्थ है असटीक और 'Apprehensive' का अर्थ है चिंतित, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'Imperative' should be used because it means something that is of vital importance or crucial. Whereas, 'Continuous' means ongoing, 'Inaccurate' means not correct, and 'Apprehensive' means fearful or concerned, which don't fit in this context
13. A) "Skill development" एक singular singular है, इसलिए इसे एक singular verb की जरूरत होती है। "Skill development" के साथ agree verb form "is" है। options B, C और D गलत हैं क्योंकि वे "skill development" के number या tense में सहमत नहीं हैं। "Are" plural verb है, "was" past tense singular है, और "were" past tense plural है। चूंकि passage का context present tense में है और हम "skill development" के बारे में सामान्य अर्थ में बात कर रहे हैं, इसलिए present tense singular form "is" सबसे उपयुक्त है।
- "Skill development" is a singular singular, so it requires a singular verb. The correct verb form that agrees with "skill development" is "is". The options B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not agree in number or tense with the noun "skill development". "Are" is a plural verb, "was" is past tense singular, and "were" is past tense plural. Since the context of the passage is in present tense and we are talking about "skill development" in a general sense, the present tense singular form "is" is the most appropriate.
14. C) 'Imparted' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "imparted" का अर्थ होता है जानकारी या कौशल प्रदान करना। जबकि 'Accomplishment' का अर्थ है उपलब्धि, 'Estranged' का अर्थ है अलग या पृथक होना, और 'Yearning' का अर्थ है इच्छा या तड़प, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Imparted' should be used because it means to provide knowledge or skills. Whereas, 'Accomplishment' means achievement, 'Estranged' means to be separate or distant, and 'Yearning' implies a strong desire or longing, which don't fit in this context.
15. D) **Waned** (verb) – To decrease in strength, intensity, or size, to diminish, reduce. घटना/ गिरावट होना
- Antonym: Grew** (verb) – To increase in size, amount, intensity, or quality. बढ़ना
- **Declined** (verb) – To become smaller, fewer, or less; decrease. घटना
 - **Dimmed** (verb) – To become less bright, clear, or distinct; fade. मंद होना
 - **Abated** (verb) – To become less intense or widespread; subside. कम होना

16. B) QPSR

Q: This sentence serves as an introduction to the topic, establishing that China has, for the third time, renamed places in Arunachal Pradesh.

P: The use of "these names" indicates that this sentence should follow a sentence that introduces the concept of renaming or providing names, which is the action mentioned in the sentence Q. Therefore, P logically comes after Q.

S: This sentence provides historical context on China's renaming activity, but it's specified to be an earlier event (2017). Given the mention of "the third time" in sentence Q, it's logical to present the previous times in a chronological order.

R: The use of "also" and "had similarly" in this sentence indicates a continuation from a previous sentence that described a similar action, which in this case is sentence S. This sentence describes the second renaming event in 2021. Chronologically, it follows the event of 2017 mentioned in sentence S.

17. C) SRQP

S: The introductory tone of "To read newspaper reports about young students ending their lives is disturbing" sets the stage for the content that will follow. This is most likely the first sentence because it introduces the subject of students ending their lives.

R: Mentions a specific time period, "During the 2018-23 quinquennial," and gives specific data on where these incidents took place.

Q: Mentions another specific time period, "In the 2014-21 septennial," but this time period is before the one mentioned in Sentence R, so Q should precede R.

P: Sentence P starts with "In both cohorts", which refers to the two time periods mentioned in Q and R. So, P should come after both Q and R.

18. C) QSRP

A huge tamarind tree, more than a century old, stood at the edge of the courtyard of my wife's ancestral home. All through the year, the tree bore fruit. A few years ago, it was struck by lightning. Despite this, the tree continued to thrive as a symbol of fortitude and hope.

19. D) PQSR

P: It makes a clear declaration about a book club. This makes it a strong candidate for the starting sentence.

Q: The sentence Q begins with "When commissioning editors of publishing houses..." which sets up a conditional situation, but the situation isn't concluded within that sentence. It needs another sentence to give the outcome of this "when" situation.

S: Sentence Q sets up a scenario about editors of publishing houses having a certain view, but what that view is, isn't clarified. Sentence S follows up on this by describing the view in detail, "Impressive solidarity in the view that your unsung masterpiece is unfit for human consumption...". The word "Impressive solidarity" in S links directly to "commissioning editors of publishing houses large and small" in Q.

R: The word "You" in R and S establishes a noun-pronoun relationship, making it clear that the same person (the author) is being discussed. Moreover, S ends with the author looking for solace, and R provides the solution to that search – turning to a club.

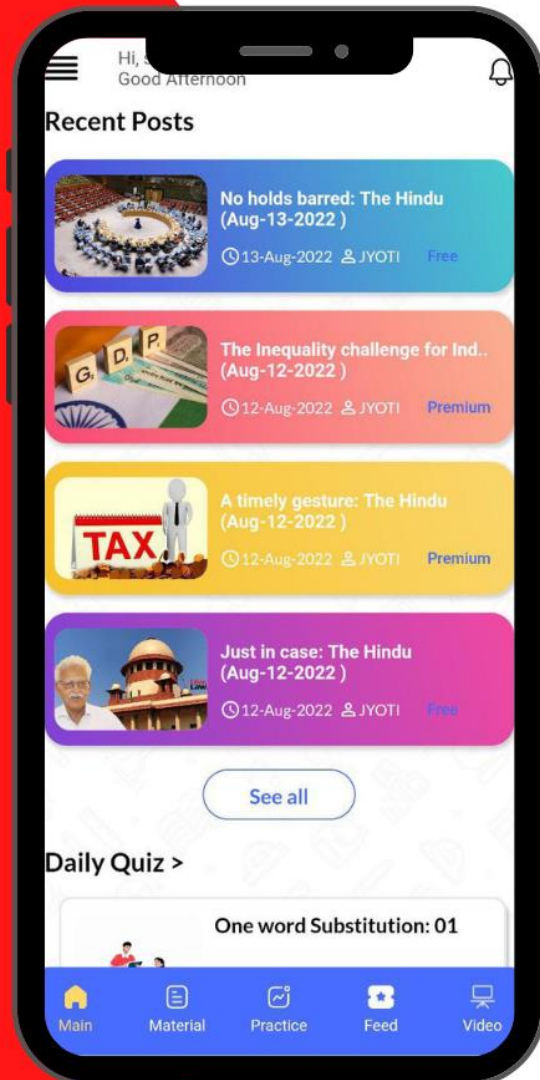
20. **B) RQSP**

R: This sentence sets the context and theme of the paragraph, which is about the recent comments made by the Supreme Court of India that will affect the independence of various constitutional authorities.

Q: Q gives us the first example or illustration of the Supreme Court's comments mentioned in R. The mention of the "Court" in Q refers to the "Supreme Court of India" from R.

S: The beginning of S with "And, earlier," indicates a Time Sequence, referring to a prior event or action related to the topic. Since Q had already introduced one action by the Court, S logically follows Q as it is providing another instance of the Supreme Court's actions concerning the independence of constitutional authorities.

P: After stating in S that the Court took a step towards ensuring the independence of the Election Commission, P goes into detail about what that step was.



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