

## A planet in crisis: on tangible outcomes from biological diversity convention

**Tangible outcomes** from biological **diversity convention** are a long time away

A month after the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt, diplomatic **retinue** went into a **contentious huddle** again to save the planet — in Montreal, Canada, this time, and as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). While both these **conferences** can **trace** their origins to the Rio summit of 1992, the CBD does not get anywhere near the media attention COP commands. There are no world leaders and heads of **state** making **grandiloquent commitments** because the CBD largely continues to be **framed** as an ‘**environmentalist**’ concern, much like what COP used to be, until the forces of **capitalism managed** to **reimagine** the idea of a planet being **inexorably** slow-cooked in **greenhouse gases** to one that may yet be saved by **renewable energy sources** — and **at the very least** — make some entrepreneurs rich.

Unlike cyclones and melting **glaciers** that have become **visual aids** to **bring home** the climate crisis **wrought** by invisible gases, **biodiversity** loss continues to be largely invisible despite its **victims** being extremely visible. Based on current trends, the UN **reckons**, an estimated 34,000 **plant** and 5,200 animal **species**, including one in eight of the world’s bird species, **face extinction**. About **30% of breeds** of main farm animal species **are** currently at high risk of extinction. Forests are home to much of the known **terrestrial** biodiversity, but about 45% of the earth’s original forests are gone, cleared mostly during the past **century**. Yet, because much of this extinction is not finely **accounted for** as the rise in **per capita carbon emissions** or **temperature swings**, it fails to **evoke** the **urgency** it deserves. **In this light**, India’s **stance**, i.e., of not wanting hard targets on proposals such as reducing the use of pesticides, **given** that their effects on impacting biodiversity are documented, and **conserving** 30% of land and sea, **seems anachronistic** particularly when it sees itself as a **champion** of conservation and living in **harmony** with nature. While **India**, adopting a **negotiating tack** from climate conferences, **has** argued that different nations have **differing** levels of responsibility towards biodiversity conservation (which requires richer nations to be more generous funders of global conservation efforts), it is well known that such demands are a dead end unless countries agree to definite targets. What cannot be measured, as the **adage** goes, cannot be understood or **addressed**. **Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, Executive Secretary of the CBD, **has** described the negotiations as one that should result in a “Paris moment for nature”; while this was not quite what happened, countries have agreed on preparing **concrete** road maps by 2024 and the richer ones, **committing** \$30 billion an annum by 2030. But seeing tangible outcomes is a long time away.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Tangible** (adjective) – that can be clearly seen to exist स्पष्ट और वास्तविक
2. **Outcome** (noun) – result, end result, consequence, conclusion परिणाम
3. **Diversity** (noun) – variety, miscellany, assortment, mixture विविधता
4. **Convention** (noun) – agreement, accord, protocol, compact, pact सम्मेलन
5. **Retinue** (noun) – a group of advisers, assistants; staff, personnel कार्मिक/सलाहकार
6. **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, quarrelsome, combative, disputatious, argumentative विवादपूर्ण
7. **Huddle** (noun) – a small group of people or things that are close together थोड़े से व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं का जमघट; जमावड़ा
8. **Conference** (noun) – a formal meeting for discussion सम्मेलन
9. **Trace** (noun) – find, discover पता लगाना
10. **State** (noun) – country, nation, sovereign state, nation state; government राज्य/देश
11. **Grandiloquent** (adjective) – pompous or extravagant in language, manner ; wordy, verbose आडंबरपूर्ण
12. **Commitment** (noun) – vow, promise, pledge, oath प्रतिबद्धता
13. **Frame** (verb) – formulate, draw up, plan तैयार करना
14. **Environmentalist** (adjective) – conservationist, green, preservationist, ecologist, nature lover पर्यावरणविद/संरक्षणवादी
15. **Capitalism** (noun) – private ownership, private enterprise पूंजीवाद
16. **Manage** (to) (verb) – (with difficulty) succeed in, accomplish, achieve, be able to कामयाब होना
17. **Reimagine** (verb) – reinterpret (an event, work) imaginatively. फिर से कल्पना करना
18. **Inexorably** (adverb) – in a way that is impossible to stop/prevent; Inescapably, unavoidably क्रूरता या कठोरता से, निर्दयता
19. **Greenhouse gas** (noun) – gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat like Methane, Carbon Dioxide
20. **Renewable energy source** (noun) – It include wind power, solar power, bioenergy (organic matter burned as a fuel) and hydroelectric, including tidal energy.
21. **At the very least** (phrase) – taking the most pessimistic or unfavourable view. कम से कम

22. **Glacier** (noun) – A glacier is an extremely large mass of ice which moves very slowly, often down a mountain valley.  
हिमनद
23. **Visual aids** (noun) – a picture, film, map, etc. that helps a student to learn something
24. **Bring home** (phrase) – to make understandable and clear; to make them understand how important or serious it is
25. **Wrought** (verb) – Past participle of Work; Act, do, perform, effect, produce, bring about घटित करना
26. **Biodiversity** (noun) – The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem. जैव विविधता
27. **Victim** (noun) – An unfortunate person who suffers from some adverse circumstance पीड़ित
28. **Reckon** (verb) – Estimate, expect, Imagine, guess अनुमान करना
29. **Extinction** (noun) – extermination, destruction, elimination, eradication, annihilation विलुप्त
30. **Terrestrial** (adjective) – earthly, native स्थलीय
31. **Century** (noun) – a period of one hundred years. सदी, शताब्दी,
32. **Account for** (phrasal verb) – constitute, form, total compose, be responsible for के लिये उत्तरदायी होना
33. **Per capita carbon emission** (noun) – it calculate the contribution of the average citizen of each country by dividing its total emissions by its population
34. **Temperature swing** (noun) – a process whereby the degree of temperature of changes
35. **Evoke** (verb) – Evoke or provoke to appear or occur; give rise to, call forth पैदा करना
36. **Urgency** (noun) – emergency, exigency, need, stress, importunity तात्कालिकता
37. **In this light** (phrase) – In view of, taking into consideration, considering, taking into account को ध्यान में रखते हुए
38. **Stance** (noun) – attitude, stand, point of view, viewpoint, opinion, way of thinking रुख
39. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
40. **Conserve** (verb) – Preserve, save, keep, protect, safeguard, support, maintain, sustain सुरक्षित रखना
41. **Anachronistic** (adjective) – obsolete, outmoded, outdated, antiquated, anachronic कालानुक्रमिक/ पुराना

42. **Champion** (noun) – supporter, standard-bearer, upholder, backer, exponent  
हिमायती, समर्थक
43. **Harmony** (noun) – a state of peaceful existence and agreement सामंजस्य, सद्भाव
44. **Negotiating** (adjective) – Talking, discussing, conferring, consulting  
बातचीत का
45. **Tack** (noun) – approach, tactic, method, policy, scheme तरीका
46. **Differing** (adjective) – Different, diverse, varying, divergent, conflicting अलग-अलग
47. **Adage** (noun) – saying, maxim, proverb  
कहावत
48. **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with सुलझाना, निपटाना
49. **Concrete** (adjective) – specific, distinct, particular, definite ठोस
50. **Commit** (verb) – Obligate, pledge, promise, compel वादा करना

### Practice Exercise

**Direction: (Q1 – Q5):** In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Connie Sellecca plays first officer Mimi Thompkins who manages successfully to land Flight 243 after its roof is ripped (1)\_\_\_\_\_ mid-flight due to mental fatigue. She is not the only one (2)\_\_\_\_\_ that flight, since there was also a flight attendant who kept checking on people. And telling them they were going to be fine (3)\_\_\_\_\_ they had giant pieces of aeroplane carpet stuck to their heads. I can't (4)\_\_\_\_\_ land a plane or tell the wounded people that they would be fine soon, due to the fact that I would be (5)\_\_\_\_\_ too hard and throwing out what ever food I had throughout the day.

1. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.
  - A. down
  - B. off
  - C. by
  - D. out
2. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.
  - A. in
  - B. over
  - C. at
  - D. on
3. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.
  - A. even though
  - B. however
  - C. otherwise
  - D. besides
4. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.
  - A. even so
  - B. neither
  - C. either
  - D. nevertheless
5. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.
  - A. oozing
  - B. spewing
  - C. razing
  - D. vomiting

**Directions (Q6–Q7):** In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

6.
  - A. Tangible
  - B. Grandeloquente
  - C. Inixoraebly
  - D. Wroughte

7. A. Adaghe
- B. Difering
- C. Huddle
- D. Harimoney

**Directions (Q8–Q9): Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

8. A. When this extra water vapour condenses into precipitation, it results in heavier rain — or, if it's cold enough, heavier snow.
- B. The atmosphere can store an additional 4% of water vapour for every additional 1°F of warming.
- C. More water evaporates from soils, plants, lakes and seas as the atmosphere warms.
- D. One of the most obvious indications of climate change is heavier rainfall.
  - A. CBDA
  - B. DCBA
  - C. ACDB
  - D. BCAD
9. A. A panther is reported to have broken into a house yesterday in search of food and shelter.
- B. The villagers heard his cries and ran to the house but the scared animal had run away through the window by then.
- C. It secretly slouched into a room where a young man named Johnny was sleeping, who suddenly woke up and realised that the beast was roaming around his bed.
- D. Just as the panther was about to leap on him, he swiftly shot out of bed and hid in a closet.
  - A. ABDC
  - B. BDCA
  - C. ACDB
  - D. DCAB

**Directions (Q10-Q12): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.**

10. **Priya washes her clothes in the evening.**
  - A. The clothes was washed by Priya in the evening.
  - B. The clothes is washed by Priya in the evening.
  - C. The clothes are washed by Priya in the evening.
  - D. The clothes were washed by Priya in the evening.
11. **Robin rolled the marble through a small plastic pipe.**
  - A. The marble was rolled by Robin in a small plastic pipe.
  - B. A small plastic pipe was rolled through a marble by Robin.
  - C. The marble was rolled through a small plastic pipe by Robin.
  - D. The marble through a small plastic pipe was rolled by Robin.
12. **The wounded man was being helped by a few men.**
  - A. The wounded man had been helped by a few men.
  - B. A few men were helping the wounded man.

- C. The wounded man was helping a few men.
- D. A few men are helping the wounded man.

**Directions (13-14):** In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

13. **A piece of a living tissue or plant that is transplanted surgically**

- A. Gratis
- B. Gourmet
- C. Gracious
- D. Graft

14. **Feeling or showing extreme tiredness**

- A. Vitalised
- B. Nervous
- C. Weary
- D. Drowsy

**Directions (15 – 16):** Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. **Beat around the bush**

- A. Avoid praising someone and demean
- B. Avoid the main point by talking in a roundabout way
- C. Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is not funny
- D. Avoid using foul words to make someone uncomfortable

16. **To smell a rat**

- A. To have reason to know the presence of a rat
- B. To have reason to suspect
- C. To know the smell of a rat
- D. To learn the smell of a rat

**Directions (17-18):** choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

17. **Evoke**

- A. Incite
- B. Seek
- C. Dissuade
- D. Charge

18. **Extinction**

- A. Expose
- B. Reflect
- C. Antipathy
- D. Extant

**Direction: (19-20):** In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

19. **Concrete**

- A. Consistent
- B. Distinct

- C. Bigotry
- D. Counter

**20. Tack**

- A. Approach
- B. Activist
- C. Excesses
- D. Demolition

**Directions (21 – 22):** In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined.

**Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.**

21. He felt exhausted as he was working since 4 O' clock in the morning
- A. Has been working
  - B. Had been working
  - C. Is working
  - D. No improvement
22. Most people in India like to give a lot of free advice.
- A. advices
  - B. advises
  - C. advise
  - A. No improvement

**Directions (Q23– Q25): Find out the error, if any –**

23. Instead of being (A)/ helpful he was (B)/ being hindrance (C)/ No Error (D)
24. Where (A)/ have I (B)/ to deposit fees? (C)/ No Error.(D)
25. By the time she finished her work (A)/ I had nearly given up (B)/ all hope of arriving at the party in time. (C)/ No Error. (D)



## Answers

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

## Explanations

- Rip off** (phrasal verb) – to remove फटना, चीरना
- “On that flight” is the correct version. Flight means the action or process of flying through the air. So you are moving on in the air.
- Even though** – despite the fact that. भले ही
  - **However** – in whatever way; regardless of how. हालांकि
  - **Otherwise** – in circumstances different from those present or considered; or else. अन्यथा
  - **Besides** – In addition to; apart from. के अतिरिक्त
- ‘Either ----- Or’
- Vomit** (verb) – eject matter from the stomach through the mouth. उल्टी करना
  - **Ooze** (verb) – (of a fluid) slowly trickle or seep out of something. बहना, टपकना
  - **Spew** (verb) – expel large quantities of (something) rapidly and forcibly.
  - **Raze** (verb) – completely destroy (a building, town, or other settlement). नष्ट करना
- Tangible** (adjective) – that can be clearly seen to exist स्पष्ट और वास्तविक
- Huddle** (noun) – a small group of people or things that are close together थोड़े से व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं का जमघट; जमावड़ा
- DCBA**  
 One of the most obvious indications of climate change is heavier rainfall. More water evaporates from soils, plants, lakes and seas as the atmosphere warms. The atmosphere can store an additional 4% of water vapour for every additional 1°F of warming. When this extra water vapour condenses into precipitation, it results in heavier rain — or, if it's cold enough, heavier snow.
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- The clothes are washed by Priya in the evening.

11. The marble was rolled through a small plastic pipe by Robin.
12. A few men were helping the wounded man.
13. **Graft** – A piece of a living tissue or plant that is transplanted surgically कलम लगाना
14. **Weary** –Feeling or showing extreme tiredness थकना
15. **Beat around the bush** (phrase) – Avoid the main point by talking in a roundabout way घुमा-फिराकर बात करना
16. **To smell a rat** (phrase) –To have reason to suspect संदेह करना
17. **Evoke** (verb) – Evoke or provoke to appear or occur; give rise to, call forth पैदा करना
  - **Charge** (noun) – accusation, allegation, indictment, arraignment आरोप
  - **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, endeavour, strive, प्रयास करना
  - **Incite** (verb) – provoke, spur on, drive on, stimulate, push भड़काना
18. **Extinction** (noun) – extermination, destruction, elimination, eradication, annihilation विलुप्त
  - **Expose** (verb) – show, display, exhibit, disclose, manifest, खुलासा करना
  - **Reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, display, demonstrate, प्रदर्शित करना
  - **Antipathy** (noun) – hostility, antagonism, animosity, aversion घृणा
19. **Concrete** (adjective) – specific, distinct, particular, definite ठोस
  - **Counter** (verb) – oppose, resist, respond to, retort to, contradict, negate विरोध करना
  - **Bigotry** (noun) – prejudice, bias, partiality, partisanship, sectarianism पक्षपात, कट्टरता
  - **Consistent** (with) (adjective) – compatible, congruous, agreeing, in harmony, harmonious, in tune संगत, सिलसिलेवार
20. **Tack** (noun) – approach, tactic, method, policy, scheme तरीका
  - **Activist** (noun) – campaigner, reformer, demonstrator कार्यकर्ता
  - **Excesses** (noun) – Outrageous or immoderate behavior. ज्यादातियों
  - **Demolition** (noun) – destruction, knocking down, pulling down, tearing down विध्वंस
21. (B) The past perfect continuous tense will be used.
22. (D) The word advice is a noun and has no plural form. Advise is a verb. So option a, b, c all get eliminated.
23. (C) 'hindrance' के पहले 'a' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि प्रश्न में 'hindrance' एक Singular Countable Noun है। 'Hindrance' का अर्थ है 'बाधा, अड़चन, अवरोध' और यह Countable तथा Uncountable Noun के रूप में प्रयुक्त होता है। जब यह Singular Countable Noun के रूप में

प्रयुक्त होता है तब यह अपने पहले Article 'a' लेता है किन्तु जब यह Uncountable Noun के रूप में प्रयुक्त होता है तब यह अपने पहले Article 'a' नहीं लेता है;

(C) 'a' will be used before 'hindrance' because 'hindrance' is a Singular Countable Noun in the question. 'Hindrance' means 'obstruction' and it is used as Countable and Uncountable Noun. When it is used as a Singular Countable Noun it takes its first Article 'a' but when it is used as an Uncountable Noun it does not take its first Article 'a';

24. (C) 'deposit' के बदले 'pay' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'deposit' का अर्थ है 'जमा करना' और 'pay' का अर्थ है 'अदा करना, भुगतान करना', और 'deposit' का प्रयोग पैसा या सामान किसी बैंक या तिजोरी में जमा करने के अर्थ में होता है जबकि 'pay' का प्रयोग 'fees, salary' के लिए होता है; जैसे-

1. He has deposited fifty thousand rupees with the bank.
2. She is unable to pay the doctor's fees.
3. Where will he pay the advocate's fees?

(C) 'deposit' shall be substituted by 'pay' as 'deposit' shall be used for money or 'pay' is used for 'fees, salary'; As-

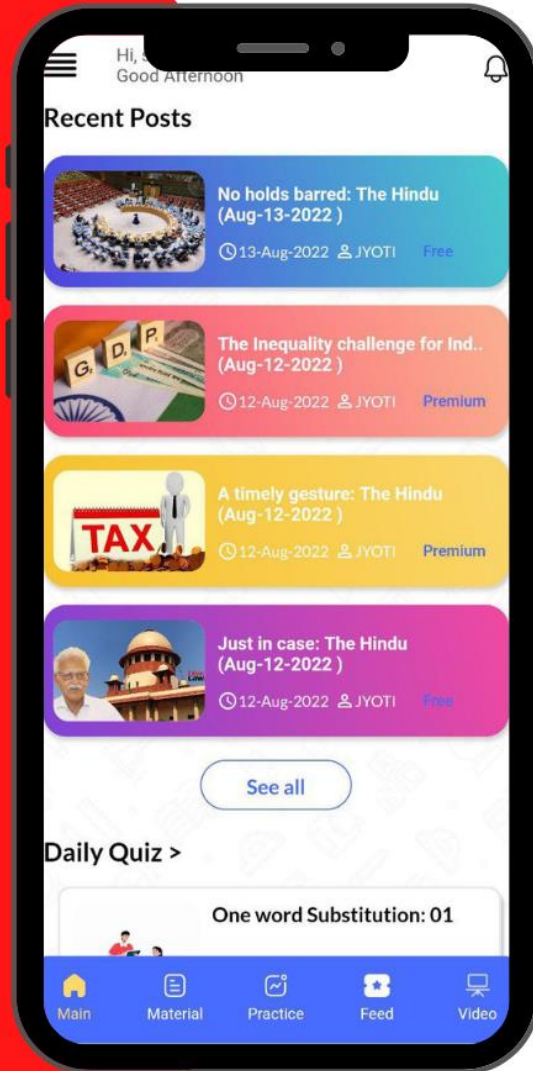
- ii. He has deposited fifty thousand rupees with the bank.
- iii. She is unable to pay the doctor's fees.
- iv. Where will he pay the advocate's fees?

25. (C) 'all hope ' के बदले 'all my hopes' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'all' के साथ 'hope' का प्रयोग Countable Noun के रूप में Plural रूप में होता है और 'hopes' के पहले 'I' के अनुसार Possessive Adjective 'my' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे-

1. He has lost all his hopes of getting this money back.

(C) 'all my hopes' will be used instead of 'all hope' because 'hope' is used with 'all' in plural form and 'I' before 'hopes' According to the Possessive Adjective 'my' will be used; As-

He has lost all his hopes of getting this money back.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

