

Friendly neighbourhood: On India-Maldives bilateral relations

India must **strengthen ties** with Maldives without taking sides in domestic politics

The **conviction** of former Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen by a criminal court in the Maldives just a year ahead of general elections **could** affect his plans to lead the PPM-PNC opposition **alliance**. He faces 11 years in prison and a \$5 million fine after being found guilty of corruption and **money laundering** links to a company he was **accused** of taking **kickbacks** from, during his **tenure** as President (2013-2018). The Maldives Constitution disqualifies any candidate **convicted** of criminal charges and **sentenced** to a term of more than a year unless they are later **acquitted** or a three-year period has **elapsed** since their release. In a sense, history has now **come full circle** for Mr. Yameen, as he had **pursued** cases against his **predecessor** Mohamed Nasheed and ensured that he would **step down** in favour of his party colleague Ibu Solih ahead of the last election. The conviction was his second in three cases. Mr. Yameen has had a rough relationship with India during his presidential term after he declared an emergency in the **island state**. As opposition leader he has **spearheaded** the “India Out” campaign, and has been **unrepentant** despite the latest **verdict**, trying to link his **incarceration** to pressure from India.

Given the **inimical** relationship, as well as Mr. Yameen’s past close links with China, there may be some relief in **South Block** over the possibility of Mr. Yameen’s disqualification. However, the Government needs to **tread** carefully when it comes to the domestic politics **roiling** its close **maritime** neighbour. India’s **infrastructure aid**, **credit lines**, loans and **commissioning** of various projects (Greater Male Connectivity Project, Hanimaadhoo airport, Hulhumale cricket stadium, Gulhifalhu port) have meant high visibility. **In addition**, **close ties** and high-level military **exchanges** since 2018 **have** raised **speculation** that India is **eyeing** a **base**. Even as the Solih government has been **prompt** in **countering** Mr. Yameen’s **allegations**, **condemning** the “India Out” campaign, and arresting a senior opposition leader for threatening violence against the Indian High Commission, the protests have gained some **traction** in parts of the country. While Mr. Yameen may not be allowed to **run** in the next election, this might make **space** for even more **radical elements** in the opposition combine. New Delhi must **keep a close watch** on other parts of Maldivian politics, including the **rift** between India’s closest friends there, President Solih and former President Nasheed, who is **threatening** to **split** the **ruling** Maldivian Democratic Party. Despite having **obvious** favourites in the polity, **New Delhi must** actively **project** the image of the friendly and helpful neighbour without **explicitly seeking** to **sway** next year’s election in any direction.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Money laundering** (noun) – the process of concealing the origin of money, obtained from illicit activities such as drug trafficking, corruption, embezzlement or gambling, by converting it into a legitimate source. काले धन को वैध बनाना

Vocabulary

1. **Neighbourhood** (noun) – A surrounding or nearby region पड़ोस
2. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Involving two parties, especially countries. द्विपक्षीय
3. **Strengthen** (verb) –reinforce, enhance, increase, intensify, fortify मजबूत करना
4. **Ties** (noun) – connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध
5. **Conviction** (noun) – declaration of guilt, verdict, sentence दोषसिद्धि/सजा
6. **Alliance** (noun) – association, coalition, union, treaty, pact गठबंधन
7. **Accuse** (of) (verb) –charge with, indict for, arraign for, take to court for आरोप लगाना
8. **Kickback** (noun) –bribe, payment, reward, recompense, inducement घूस, रिशवत
9. **Tenure** (noun) – term of office, period कार्यकाल
10. **Convict** (verb) –declare guilty, find guilty, pronounce guilty दोषी ठहराना
11. **Sentence** (verb) – pronounce sentence on, mete out punishment to, punish, convict अपराधी को सजा सुनाना
12. **Acquit** (verb) – exonerate, absolve, exculpate, deport, discharge बरी करना
13. **Elapse** (verb) – intervene, lapse, pass, go by बीतना/समाप्त होना
14. **Come full circle** (phrase) – Return to a past situation, especially considered to be inevitable. पहले जैसा हो जाना।
15. **Pursue** (verb) – carry out, be involved in, go in for पीछा करना
16. **Predecessor** (noun) – One who precedes you in time (as in holding a position or office) पूर्ववर्ती
17. **Step down** (phrasal verb) – withdraw, resign (from a position or office) पद छोड़ना
18. **Island State** (noun) – an island nation is a country whose primary territory consists of one or more islands or parts of islands द्वीपीय राज्य
19. **Spearhead** (verb) – lead, head, be in the forefront of नेतृत्व करना
20. **Unrepentant** (adjective) – Impenitent, unapologetic, unashamed, unremorseful बेपरवाह
21. **Verdict** (noun) – Decision, adjudication, decree, decision फैसला
22. **Incarceration** (noun) – imprisonment, internment, custody, detention कैद /कारावास

23. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
24. **Inimical** (adjective) – unfriendly, harmful, detrimental, hostile, antagonistic शत्रुतापूर्ण
25. **South Block** (noun) – Office of the Prime Minister's office, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs.
26. **Tread** (verb) – to take step कदम रखना
27. **Roil** (verb) – To cause (someone or something) to become very agitated or disturbed को हिला देना, परेशान करना
28. **Maritime** (adjective) – coastal, seaside, littoral समुद्री
29. **Infrastructure** (noun) – the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization बुनियादी ढाँचा, अवसंरचना
30. **Aid** (noun) – help, support, assistance सहायता /मदद
31. **Credit line** (noun) – an amount of money a person or company is allowed to borrow during a particular period of time from one or more financial organizations
32. **Commission** (verb) – bring (projects) into working condition. चालू/शुरू करना
33. **In addition** (phrase) – Furthermore, moreover, also, additionally, as well, इसके अलावा
34. **Exchange** (noun) – Conversation, argument, talk, discussion बातचीत
35. **Speculation** (noun) – supposition, guess, conjecture, hypothesis, surmise अटकलबाज़ी, अनुमान
36. **Eye** (verb) – look at closely or with interest. नजर गड़ना
37. **Base** (noun) – a military centre from which the armed forces operate सैनिक अड्डा
38. **Prompt** (adjective) – done without delay; immediate, ready तत्पर /तुरन्त
39. **Counter** (verb) – oppose, contradict, retort, combat, respond सामना करना
40. **Allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, claim, assertion आरोप
41. **Condemn** (verb) – censure, criticize, castigate, attack, denounce निंदा करना
42. **Traction** (noun) – Acceptance; popularity
43. **Run** (verb) – stand as a candidate in an election चुनाव में खड़े होना
44. **Space** (noun) – room, freedom, liberty स्वतंत्रता
45. **Radical** (adjective) –revolutionary, extremist, extreme, fanatic, progressive कट्टरपंथी
46. **Element** (noun) –a group of people of a particular kind within a larger group. तत्व

47. **Keep a close watch on** (phrase) – to pay attention to a situation carefully so that you can deal with any changes or problems
नजर रखना
48. **Rift** (noun) – a serious break in friendly relations फूट, मनमुटाव
49. **Threaten** (verb) – Intimidate, pressure, bully, warn, menace धमकाना
50. **Split** (verb) – divide, separate, break, विभाजन करना/ तोड़ना
51. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling सत्तारूढ़
52. **Obvious** (adjective) – evident, apparent, manifest, patent, conspicuous स्पष्ट
53. **Project** (verb) – Present, show, pose, represent पेश करना
54. **Explicitly** (adverb) – In a clear and detailed manner, leaving no room for confusion or doubt. स्पष्ट रूप से
55. **Seek** (verb) – Try, effort, strive, endeavour कोशिश करना
56. **Sway** (verb) – control or influence प्रभावित 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. [Editorial Page]

Many of the major supermarket chains have come under fire with accusations of (1)_____ unethical acts over the past decade. They've wasted tonnes of food, they've underpaid their suppliers and they've contributed to excessive plastic waste in their packaging, which has had its impact on our environment. But supermarkets and grocers are (2)_____ to sit up and take notice. In response to (3)_____ consumer backlash against the huge amounts of plastic waste generated by plastic packaging, some of the largest UK supermarkets have (4)_____ up a pact promising to transform packaging and cut plastic wastage. In a pledge to reuse, recycle or compost all plastic wastage by 2025, supermarkets are now beginning to take (5)_____ responsibility for the part they play in contributing to the damage to our environment, with one major supermarket announcing their plan to eliminate all plastic packaging in their own-brand products by 2023.

1. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. various
 - B. most
 - C. same
 - D. much
2. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. being start
 - B. starting
 - C. start
 - D. being starting
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. believing
 - B. enlarging
 - C. developing
 - D. growing
4. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. signed
 - B. bought
 - C. settled
 - D. resigned
5. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. little
 - B. every
 - C. any
 - D. some

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. Neighborhood

- B. Neighbourhood
- C. Naieghbourhod
- D. Neihghbourhood

7. A. Predecessor
B. Predeccesor
C. Predeccessor
D. Predecesor

Directions (Q8–Q9): 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.

8. **P.** The award is named after Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite.
Q. A Nobel Prize is an award that is given to someone whose work has benefitted society.
R. This award is given in six categories, and medicine is one of those categories.
S. This year Professors David Julius and Ardem Petapoutian have won this prize for medicine.
- A. SPQR B. PQSR C. SQRP D. QPRS
9. **P.** He is well aware of the role he and his people play in keeping Shivsagar Lake as beautiful and ecologically thriving.
Q. However, he is also deeply aware of the fact that the urban idea of conservation often seeks to keep traditional dwellers out.
R. Jason, 45, has a quiet, confident presence.
S. He takes a long time to open up and even after that, he speaks little.
- A. RQPS B. RSPQ C. PSQR D. PRSQ

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. **The sewage water smells foul.**
A. Foul is smelt by the sewage water.
B. The sewage water is foul when it is smelt.
C. The sewage water has a foul smell.
D. Passive construction is not possible.
11. **Somebody is following us.**
A. Somebody had been following us.
B. Somebody is following us.
C. We have been following by somebody.
D. We're being followed by somebody.
12. **The child broke many toys in the shop. He even threw the paintings.**
A. Many toys in the shop have been broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him.
B. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings have been thrown by him.
C. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him.
D. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. He has even thrown the paintings.

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. **The act of killing one's mother**

- A. Regicide
- B. Homicide
- C. Uxoricide
- D. Matricide

14. **An eccentric manner of living**

- A. Bohemian
- B. Numismatist
- C. Gourmet
- D. Misanthrope

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

15. **Cudgel one's brain**

- A. Thinking about a debate
- B. To think hard
- C. Not to think
- D. To overthink

16. I bought some extra copies from the stationery shop. These may **come in handy** during exams.

- A. Be useful
- B. Cause trouble
- C. Be sold
- D. Bring luck

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

17. **INIMICAL**

- A. Friendly
- B. Archaic
- C. Chagrin
- D. Challenging

18. **PROMPT**

- A. Champion
- B. Abandon
- C. Slow
- D. Abate

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. **CONDEMN**

- A. Blister
- B. Capitalism
- C. Decrimanlise
- D. Censure

20. **SWAY**

- A. Establish
- B. Influence
- C. Foolish
- D. Glisten

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. Akbar was one of the finest king that India ever had
- A. One of finest kings
 - B. One of the finest kings
 - C. One of the fine king
 - D. No correction required
22. People who live on glass houses should not throw stones
- A. Over
 - B. In
 - C. At
 - D. No correction required

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

23. When I first started my school (A)/ my boys had (B)/ no evident love for music. (C)/ No error(D)
24. My uncle (A)/ has left (B)/ for Bombay on the last Sunday. (C)/ No error (D)
25. Don't think (A)/ you can deceive me (B)/ like you did my brother.(C)/ no error (D)

Answers

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

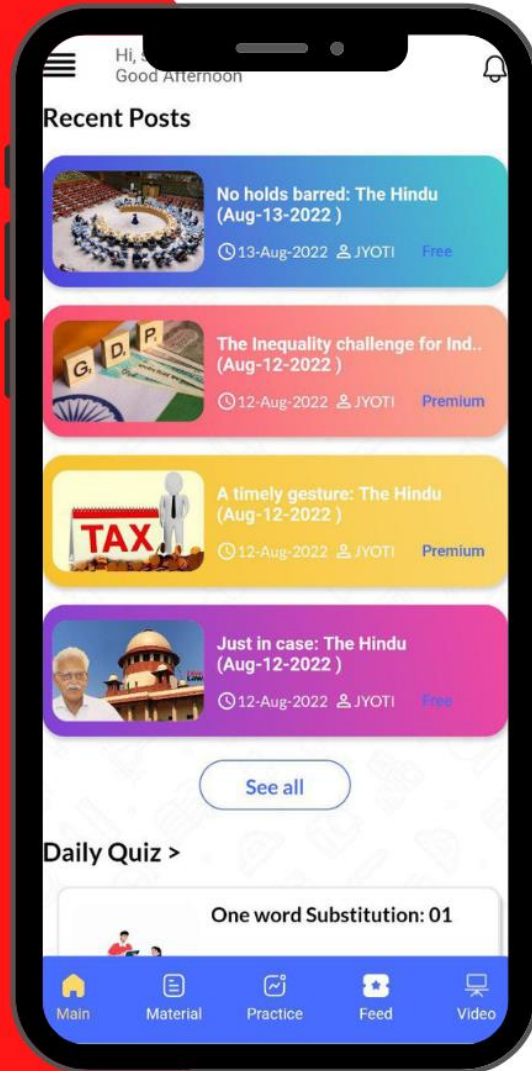
Explanations

1. **Various** (determiner) – more than one; several. विभिन्न, तरह तरह का
2. **Starting**
As the sentence is in active voice so we can easily eliminate option A & D. And, we know that 'Is/are + V^A' is used so with that concept we can eliminate option C as well.
3. **Growing** (adjective) – increasing. बढ़ता हुआ,
 - **Backlash** (noun) – Criticism, counterattack, hostile response आलोचना
 - **Enlarge** (verb) – make or become larger or more extensive. विस्तार करना
 - **Developing** (adjective) – growing and becoming more mature, advanced, or elaborate. विकासशील
4. **Sign up** (phrasal verb) – conclude a business deal. के साथ करार करना
5. **Some**
We use some before nouns to refer to indefinite quantities. Although the quantity is not important or not defined, using some implies a limited quantity
6. **Neighbourhood** – A surrounding or nearby region पड़ोस
7. **Predecessor** – One who precedes you in time (as in holding a position or office) पूर्ववर्ती
8. **QPRS**
A Nobel Prize is an award that is given to someone whose work has benefitted society. The award is named after Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite. This award is given in six categories, and medicine is one of those categories. This year Professors David Julius and Ardem Petapoutian have won this prize for medicine.
9. **RSPQ**
Jason, 45, has a quiet, confident presence. He takes a long time to open up and even after that, he speaks little. He is well aware of the role he and his people play in keeping Shivsagar Lake as beautiful and ecologically thriving. However, he is also deeply aware of the fact that the urban idea of conservation often seeks to keep traditional dwellers out.
10. Passive construction is not possible.
11. We're being followed by somebody.
12. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him.
13. **Matricide** – The killing of one's mother मातृहत्या
 - **Regicide** – the action of killing a king. राजहत्या

- **Homicide** – The unlawful killing of one person by another. मानव हत्या
 - **Uxoricide** – the killing of one's wife.
14. **Bohemian** – An eccentric manner of living रूढ़िमुक्त
- **Numismatist** – a person who collects or studies coins and medals मुद्राशास्त्री, मुद्राविज्ञानी
 - **Gourmet** – a person who enjoys food and knows a lot about it भोजनप्रेमी तथा भोजन-विशेषज्ञ व्यक्ति
 - **Misanthrope** – a person who hates or avoids other people मनुष्य से घृणा करनेवाला; मानवद्वेषी
15. **Cudgel one's brain** (phrase) – To think hard
16. **come in handy** (phrase) – Be useful उपयोगी होना
17. **Inimical** (adjective) – unfriendly, harmful, detrimental, hostile, antagonistic विरोधी
- **Archaic** (adjective) – obsolete, outmoded, outdated प्राचीन, पुराना
 - **Chagrin** (noun) – annoyance, irritation, vexation, exasperation, displeasure नाराजगी, चिढ़
 - **Challenging** (adjective) – Difficult, tough, not easy, taxing चुनौतीपूर्ण
18. **Prompt** (adjective) – done without delay; immediate. तुरन्त
- **Champion** (verb) – Support, back, advocate, stand up for समर्थन करना
 - **Abandon** (verb) – to stop doing something, especially before it is finished छोड़ देना, त्याग देना
 - **Abate** (verb) – lessen, reduce, lower, soften, diminish कम करना
19. **Condemn** (verb) – censure, criticize, castigate, attack, denounce निंदा करना
- **Blister** (verb) – bubble, boil, pustule, vesicle, bleb छाला
 - **Capitalism** (noun) – private ownership, private enterprise पूंजीवाद
 - **Decriminalise** (verb) – make legal, decriminalize, legitimize अपराधमुक्त करना
20. **Sway** (verb) – influence; the ability to persuade: प्रभावित करना
- **Establish** (verb) – confirm, prove सिद्ध करना
 - **Foolish** (noun) – stupid, silly, idiotic, half-witted, witless, brainless, mindless मूर्ख

- **Glisten** (verb) – shine, sparkle, glint, glitter, glimmer, shimmer चमकना

21. 'king' के बदले 'kings' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'one of / each of/ either of/ neither of/ every one of/ each one of any one of' के बाद आनेवाले Nouns हमेशा Plural होते हैं; जैसे-
- a. One of the boys.
 - b. Each of the girls.
 - c. Every one of the players.
22. 'on' के बदले 'In' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'live in a house / a room / a flat etc.' का प्रयोग होता है।
23. (A) 'first' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है और इसे हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'start' का अर्थ ही है 'प्रारंभ करना, शुरू करना'।
24. (B) 'has left' के बदले 'left' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि part(c) में 'last Sunday' से पता चलता है कि घटना past की है, और past में घटी किसी घटना के लिए simple past का प्रयोग होता है।
25. (C) 'like' के बदले 'as' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'like + object' का प्रयोग होता है जबकि 'as + subject + verb'; जैसे -
- i. She looks like me/her mother.
 - ii. You help her as you did Mohan



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

