Green crosshairs: On the impact of the European Union's Carbon Border **Adjustment Mechanism**

A multi-pronged counter is warranted to tackle the European Union's carbon tax plans

Starting this October, the European Union (EU) proposes to introduce a framework for levying a carbon tax on imports of products that rely on non-green or sub-optimally sustainable processes and where carbon emissions are deemed to have not been adequately priced. This Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will begin with an import monitoring mechanism and culminate in the levy of duties as determined from January 2026. The EU argues that the CBAM will ensure its climate objectives are not undermined by carbon-intensive imports and spur cleaner production in the rest of the world. This **poses** a significant threat to some of India's biggest exports to the **trading** bloc, including iron ore and steel, with carbon levies estimated to range from 19.8% to 52.7%. During a visit to France in early April, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said it was too early to gauge the tax's impact on Indian exports, as operational clarity was yet to emerge. By last Thursday, top trade officials were more assertive and termed tackling this risk as one of the top items on the government's agenda, with several options being explored.

It is critical that the Centre reacts with greater alacrity to what may be considered by some as a sophisticated trade barrier doused in 'greenwashing' optics, proposed by the EU. Last year, about a third of India's iron, steel and aluminium exports, for instance, were shipped to EU members. Engineering products, the largest export growth driver in recent years, would be impacted too. Larger players across sectors are gradually turning to greener technologies, but the transition needs time — even more so for smaller businesses — to move away from legacy carbon-heavy technologies (such as blast furnaces for steel making). The EU believes the carbon tax is compatible with World Trade Organization norms, but India is looking to challenge that. It may also flag the incompatibility with the UN's climate change framework which moots common but differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing nations. But even if these arguments are upheld, these two avenues lack enforcement options. So, a threat of retaliatory tariffs on EU imports is also being weighed even as plans are afoot to quantify the various carbon taxes levied in India. Having positioned itself as the voice of the global South, India must play that part to the hilt while at the helm of the G-20 this year and galvanise other nations to take on the EU's carbon tax framework. This championing need not revolve around its own concerns, but the far worse implications the CBAM entails for poorer countries, many of whom rely more heavily on mineral resources than India does. [Practice Exercise]

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

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Vocabulary

- Green (adjective) eco-friendly, earthfriendly, sustainable पर्यावरण हितैषी
- Crosshairs (noun) A center of interest, targeted, in the spotlight निशाने पर
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) (noun) – This mechanism allows the EU to unilaterally impose a levy on imports from countries that do not meet the environmental standards set by the European Union.
- Multi-pronged (adjective) multifaceted, multi-dimensional, multi-faceted बहुआयामी /बहुपक्षीय
- Counter (noun) Response, rebuttal, retort, reply, counteraction, countermeasure प्रतिक्रिया
- Warrant (verb) require, demand, mandate जरूरी बनाना
- 7. **Carbon tax** (noun) a type of penalty that businesses must pay for excessive greenhouse gas emissions.
- 8. **Framework** (noun) scheme, plan, blueprint ढांचा
- Levy (verb) exact, assess, enforce;
 Impose, charge, apply लगाना /वसूल करना
- 10. **Rely on** (phrasal verb) count on, trust in, lean on निर्भर होना

- 11. **Sub-optimally** (adverb) inefficiently, inadequately, imperfectly अपूर्ण रूप से
- 12. **Sustainable** (adjective) eco-friendly, green, renewable सतत
- 13. **Carbon emission** (noun) carbon dioxide that planes, cars, factories, etc. produce, thought to be harmful to the environment कार्बन उत्सर्जन
- 14. **Deem** (verb) believe, think, judge मानना
- 15. **Adequately** (adverb) to a satisfactory or acceptable extent पर्याप्त रूप से
- 16. **Mechanism** (noun) procedure, method, process तंत्र
- 17. **Culminate** (verb) climax, reach a climax, peak शिखर पर पहुँचना
- 18. Levy (noun) tax, tariff, duty करारोपण
- 19. **Argue** (verb) Contend, say, maintain, reason, claim तर्क करना
- 20. **Ensure** (verb) Make sure, make certain, confirm, certify सुनिश्चित करना
- 21. **Undermine** (verb) Weaken, dent, destablise, undercut, damage कमजोर होना
- 22. **Carbon-intensive** (adjective) high-carbon, energy-intensive, high-emission
- 23. **Spur** (verb) motivate, inspire, incite प्रेरित करना

- 24. **Pose** (verb) Present, cause, create खड़ा करना (खतरा)
- 25. **Trading bloc** (noun) economic alliance, trade alliance, trade group व्यापार ग्ट
- 26. **Gauge** (verb) assess, appraise, evaluate ਸਾਧਜਾ
- 27. **Emerge** (verb) appear, arise, come out, surface, develop उभरना
- 28. **Assertive** (adjective) self-assured, authoritative, self-confident आत्मविश्वासी
- 29. **Term** (verb) call, name, label, designate कहना
- 30. **Agenda** (noun) Schedule, plan, outline, memo, program कार्यसूची
- 31. **Explore** (verb) investigate, delve into, scrutinize, study, analyze पता लगाना
- 32. **Critical** (adjective) vital, key, significant, essential महत्वपूर्ण
- 33. **Alacrity** (noun) enthusiasm, keenness, readiness, zeal, promptitude **त**ਰपरता
- 34. **Sophisticated** (adjective) advanced, complex, refined, intricate, highly developed सूक्ष्म जटिल/ परिष्कृत
- 35. **Douse** (verb) extinguish, snuff out, put out, smother ब्झाना
- 36. **Greenwashing** (noun) Greenwashing is the process of conveying a false impression

- or misleading information about how a company's products are environmentally sound.
- 37. **Optics** (noun) perception, appearance, image, impression धारणा
- 38. **For instance** (phrase) for example उदाहरण के लिए
- 39. **Growth driver** (noun) Growth factor, catalyst, motivator, stimulant, accelerator विकास का प्रेरक
- 40. **Player** (noun) participant, competitor, contender, actor
- 41. **Gradually** (adverb) slowly, unhurriedly धीरे-धीरे
- 42. **Transition** (noun) shift, changeover, metamorphosis परिवर्तन
- 43. **Legacy** (noun as modifier) inherited, handed-down, traditional, ancestral विरासत
- 44. **Furnace** (noun) kiln, oven, heater भट्टी
- 45. **Compatible** (adjective) Well-matched, well-suited, friendly, attuned, harmonious के साथ संगत
- 46. **World Trade Organization** (WTO) (noun) an international organization that regulates trade between nations विश्व व्यापार संगठन

- 47. **Norm** (noun) criterion, guideline, rule, principle मानक
- 48. **Flag** (verb) highlight, signal, mark, emphasize चिहिनत करना
- 49. **Incompatibility** (noun) incongruity, disparity, conflict, opposition असंगति
- 50. **Climate change** (noun) long-term alteration in Earth's climate or regional climate जलवाय् परिवर्तन
- 51. **Moot** (verb) propose, suggest, raise, put forth प्रस्तावित करना
- 52. Common but differentiated
 responsibilities (CBDR) (noun) a
 principle recognizing different
 responsibilities of countries in addressing
 climate change सामान्य लेकिन भिन्न-भिन्न
 जिम्मेदारियां
- 53. **Uphold** (verb) support, maintain, defend, sustain समर्थन करना
- 54. **Avenue** (noun) approach, strategy, tactic, method मार्ग
- 55. **Lack** (verb) be without, need, necessitate, be deficient in, be short of, be deprived of अभाव
- 56. **Enforcement** (noun) implementation, execution, imposition, carrying out कार्यान्वयन
- 57. **Retaliatory tariff** (noun) punitive tariff; an additional tax imposed by a country on

- imported goods from another country to punish the other country for taxing its own exported goods प्रतिशोधी आयात श्ल्क
- 58. **Weigh** (verb) consider, ponder, deliberate, examine, evaluate विचार करना
- 59. **Afoot** (adjective) happening, occurring, in progress, ongoing, underway चल रहा है
- 60. **Quantify** (verb) to determine, express, or measure the quantity of मात्रा ठहराना, मापना
- 61. **Voice** (noun) spokesperson, representative, advocate, delegate आवाज़
- 62. **The Global South** (noun) the less developed countries of Asia, Africa, South America, and others
- 63. **The Global North** (noun) the economically developed countries of Europe, North America, Australia, and others
- 64. **Play a part/role** (phrase) contribute, participate, be involved in, have a hand in भाग लेना/ भूमिका निभाना
- 65. **To the hilt** (phrase) completely, entirely, fully, absolutely, totally पूरी तरह से
- 66. **At the helm of** (phrase) in charge, in control, in command, leading की अध्यक्षता में
- 67. **Helm** (noun) leadership, guidance, control, authority नेतृत्व

- 68. **G-20** (noun) The G20 is a group of twenty of the world's largest economies, formed in 1999, that regularly meets to coordinate global policy on trade, health, climate, and other issues, representing around 90% of global GDP, 80% of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population
- 69. **Galvanize** (verb) stimulate, motivate, encourage, inspire, energize प्रेरित करना
- 70. **Take on** (phrasal verb) accept, assume, undertake, adopt, embrace स्वीकार करना (च्नौती)

- 71. **Champion** (verb) advocate, support, defend, endorse, promote समर्थन करना
- 72. **Revolve around** (phrasal verb) focus on, center on, be concerned with, be based on के इर्द-गिर्द घूमना
- 73. **Far worse** (phrase) significantly poorer in quality कहीं अधिक बुरा
- 74. **Implications** (noun) consequences, results, effects, ramifications प्रभाव
- 75. **Entail** (verb) necessitate, require, involve, demand, call for आवश्यकता होना

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Summary of the Editorial

- 1. The European Union (EU) plans to introduce a carbon tax on certain imports, known as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), starting in October.
- 2. The CBAM aims to prevent undermining EU climate objectives by carbon-intensive imports and promote cleaner production globally.
- 3. The mechanism will begin with an import monitoring mechanism and implement duties from January 2026.
- 4. India's major exports, including iron ore and steel, could face significant threats due to carbon levies ranging from 19.8% to 52.7%.
- 5. The Indian government is exploring several options to tackle the risks posed by the CBAM.
- 6. Some perceive the CBAM as a sophisticated trade barrier with "greenwashing" optics.
- 7. A third of India's iron, steel, and aluminium exports went to EU members last year.
- 8. The CBAM could also impact engineering products, India's largest export growth driver in recent years.
- 9. Larger Indian companies are adopting greener technologies, but smaller businesses require more time for transitioning away from carbon-intensive practices.
- 10. The EU claims that the carbon tax is compatible with World Trade Organization (WTO) norms, but India intends to challenge this.
- 11. India may also argue that the CBAM is incompatible with the UN's climate change framework, which promotes differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing nations.
- 12. India is considering retaliatory tariffs on EU imports.
- 13. The country is working to quantify its own carbon taxes.
- 14. As the voice of the global South, India should use its G-20 leadership to mobilize other nations against the EU's carbon tax framework.
- 15. India's opposition to the CBAM should consider the implications for poorer countries, which often rely more heavily on mineral resources.

Practice Exercise: Banking pattern

- 1. Which of the following statements about the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is NOT true, based on the passage? [Editorial Page]
 - A. CBAM is set to be introduced in October.
 - B. CBAM will begin with an import monitoring mechanism.
 - C. CBAM aims to protect EU's climate objectives from carbon-intensive imports.
 - D. CBAM's impact on Indian exports is already clear and well-understood.
 - E. The CBAM will impose duties from January 2026.
- 2. Based on the passage, which of the following strategies is NOT mentioned as a possible response to the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?
 - A. Challenging the compatibility of the carbon tax with World Trade Organization norms
 - B. Flagging the incompatibility with the UN's climate change framework
 - C. Encouraging local businesses to adopt greener technologies
 - D. Imposing retaliatory tariffs on EU imports
 - E. Investing in alternative energy resources to reduce reliance on mineral resources
- 3. Based on the passage, what is the tone of the author?
 - A. Supportive
 - B. Critical
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Enthusiastic
 - E. None
- 4. What is the main theme of the passage?
 - A. The economic benefits of the European Union's carbon tax framework
 - B. The impact of the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on Indian exports
 - C. The role of technology in reducing carbon emissions
 - D. The importance of international cooperation in addressing climate change
- 5. What is a synonym for the word "afoot" as used in the passage?
 - A. Underway
 - B. Overhead
 - C. Static
 - D. Immobile
 - E. None of the above
- 6. Directions: In the question below, a sentence is given with three blanks, indicate that some parts are missing. Identify the correct pair of words that fit in the sentence to make it grammatically and contextually correct.

Indonesia's stampede accident is	of other crowd-related tragedies such as the
deaths of eight people in January 2022 during	the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon, those of
74 spectators in Port Said, Egypt in 2012 and 9	97 Liverpool supporters at Hillsborough in
Yorkshire, England in 1989. In all three cases,	the deaths were less the result of hooliganism
and more to do with police and	d crowd control failure. FIFA, football's

- 2. Incompetence
- 3. Reminiscent
- 4. Apt
- 5. Disparity

A. 412

B.321

C. 213

D.245

Directions (Q7 – Q10): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.

- P. In 2017, the fundamentalist state of Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan removed Darwin's Theory of Evolution from the school curriculum because it was a "controversial" subject", "above the students' level and not directly relevant."
- Q. Saudi Arabia is the only other country to exclude evolutionary theory from the school curriculum.
- **R.** Both Christian and Muslim creationists reject the theory of evolution.
- **S.** History indeed repeats first as tragedy and then as farce, as Marx had said.
- T. It was a tragedy for the Turkish state founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who had combined Islamism and political pluralism to make Turkey a model democracy in the Islamic world.
- 7. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 8. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 9. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 10. Which of the following should be the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)

- B. (Q)
- C. (R)
- D. (S)
- E. (T)
- 11. In this question, a sentence has been divided into four parts (A), (B), (C) and (D). Read the sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error if any, will be in one part of the sentence. Mark that part as your answer. If there is no error, the answer is 'No error'. Ignore the error of punctuation if any

Whenever I saw (A)/ him, he (B)/ has been reading(C)/ the same novel. (D)/

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error
- 12. In this question, a sentence has been divided into four parts (A), (B), (C) and (D). Read the sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error if any, will be in one part of the sentence. Mark that part as your answer. If there is no error, the answer is 'No error'. Ignore the error of punctuation if any

He is (A)/ better than (B)/ any boy (C)/ in the class. (D)/

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error
- 13. Rearrange the sentences to form a meaningful paragraph.

Pääbo, 67, has quietly instigated a Copernican revolution. (1)/ Science being of an increasingly collaborative and competitive nature, recent trends in Nobel Prizes suggest that there are usually multiple winners for every prize. (2)/ The Nobel Prize for Medicine this year will be awarded to Svante Pääbo, a Swedish geneticist and a director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. (3)/ It is a tribute to the originality and revolutionary implications of Pääbo's research that in a world perennially reshaped by advances in biology, he has been chosen as the lone winner of the Medicine or Physiology Prize this year — something not witnessed since 2016. (4)/

- A. CBAD
- B. CBDA
- C. BCDA
- D. BDCA
- E. ABCD
- 14. Idioms & Phrase

"I'm worried about my job. I think my company is heading into choppy waters."

A. To arrange for an event or activity to happen

- B. The last comment or decision about something
- C. Story or event used as warning
- D. Troublesome, difficult or uncertain times

Directions: In each of the questions below, a sentence is given with two blanks that indicate that some parts are missing. Identify the correct pair of words that fit in the sentence to make it grammatically and contextually correct.

- 15. India's surfeit of economists, goes an old , has given our economy a jumble of policies all too for our own good.
 - A. Quip, unwieldy
 - B. Slump, diverse
 - C. Entreaty, coherence
 - D. Cohesion, bulky
 - E. None of the above
- 16. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

INCENTIVE

- (i) I think there are encouraging developments in technology that are permitting developed countries to 'do more with less', and increasing **incentives** to do so.
- (ii) Economic returns from these projects may provide a strong incentive for such countries to participate.
- (iii) But many physicians have refused these incentives because of the risk of control of their practice.
 - A. Only (i)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. Only (iii)
 - D. (i), (ii)
 - E. All are correct
- 17. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

Annual visa quotas for Indian chefs and yoga trainers, and a post-study work visa regime for Indian students will expected(A) ties, as would the approval(B) of a double taxation avoidance(C) agreement by Australia, which is bolster(D) to save millions of dollars a year for Indian IT firms.

- A. A D
- B. B A
- C. D-B
- D. A-C
- E. No arrangement

Direction (Q18- Q20): Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of w						
18.	So, the India	a-Australia pa	rtnership enjo	ys wide, bipartisan	support in Canberra — that	
	Australia has been particularly upset with what it called the 'weaponisation of trade' by China,					
	has surely helped(a) sentiment about India being a more trustworthy partner.					
	Fill the most appropriate option in (a)					
	(i) Observ	vation				
	(ii) Galvar	nise				
	(iii) Brilliance					
	(iv) Stagge	ering				
	A. Only (i)	B. Only (ii)	C. Only (iii)	D. Both (ii) and (iv)	E. None of the above	
19,	four-nation C Economic Fore Fill the most a (i) Setback (ii) Ambition (iii) Cliques (iv) Outcom	Quad, the tri um (IPEF) appropriate of c on	lateral Supply	Chain Resilience In	bal(b) such as the litiative and the Indo-Pacific state. E. None of the above	
20.	The bilateral trade deal is a strong positive signal about India's credentials to a world(c) its feet away from dodgy supply chains towards a 'China plus one' strategy.					
	Fill the most appropriate option in (c)					
	(i) Shufflii	ng				
	(ii) Down					
	(iii) cut					
	(iv) Putting	5				
	A. Only (i)	B. Only (ii)	C. Only (iii)	D. Both (i) and (ii)	E. None of the above	

Answers

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

Explanations

- 1. The passage provides information about the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, mentioning its introduction in October, starting with an import monitoring mechanism, and imposing duties from January 2026. The purpose of the CBAM is to protect the EU's climate objectives from carbon-intensive imports. However, the passage states that it is too early to gauge the tax's impact on Indian exports as operational clarity is yet to emerge, which means that option D is not true based on the passage.
- 2. **E)** Investing in alternative energy resources to reduce reliance on mineral resources

 The passage discusses various strategies that India is considering in response to the European

 Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). These include challenging the
 compatibility of the carbon tax with World Trade Organization norms (Option A), flagging the
 incompatibility with the UN's climate change framework (Option B), encouraging local businesses
 to adopt greener technologies (Option C), and imposing retaliatory tariffs on EU imports (Option

 D). However, the passage does not mention investing in alternative energy resources to reduce
 reliance on mineral resources (Option E) as one of the strategies considered by India.
- 3. B) Critical

The author adopts a critical tone towards the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The author suggests that the EU's CBAM may be considered as a sophisticated trade barrier disguised in 'greenwashing' optics and that India and other countries should take action against it.

- 4. **B)** The impact of the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on Indian exports
 The main theme of the passage is the impact of the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment
 Mechanism (CBAM) on Indian exports. The author discusses the potential negative consequences
 for India's major exports, such as iron ore and steel, and the need for India to take a multi-pronged
 approach to counter the EU's carbon tax plans.
- 5. A) Underway

Afoot (adjective) – underway, happening, on foot, brewing, astir In the passage, the word "afoot" is used to describe the plans that are in progress or being put into action. The synonym "underway" carries a similar meaning, indicating that something has started and is in motion.

- 6. Correct answer is B) 321
 - Reminiscent (of) (adjective) similar to याद ताजा करना
 - Incompetence (noun) ineptitude, inadequacy, inability, ineptness, inefficiency अक्षमता
 - **Descend into** (phrasal verb) If a situation descends into a particular state, it becomes worse: खराब स्थिति में प्रवेश करना
 - Apt (adjective) appropriate, fitting, suitable, proper, relevant उपयुक्त

- Disparity (noun) Difference, inequality, discrepancy, disproportion, gap, inconsistency, incongruence विषमता
- 7. S.) History indeed repeats first as tragedy and then as farce, as Marx had said
- 8. P) In 2017, the fundamentalist state of Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan removed Darwin's Theory of Evolution from the school curriculum because it was a "controversial subject", "above the students' level and not directly relevant."
- 9. T) It was a tragedy for the Turkish state founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who had combined Islamism and political pluralism to make Turkey a model democracy in the Islamic world.
- 10. Q) Saudi Arabia is the only other country to exclude evolutionary theory from the school curriculum.

SPTQR

History indeed repeats first as tragedy and then as farce, as Marx had said. In 2017, the fundamentalist state of Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan removed Darwin's Theory of Evolution from the school curriculum because it was a "controversial subject", "above the students' level and not directly relevant." It was a tragedy for the Turkish state founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who had combined Islamism and political pluralism to make Turkey a model democracy in the Islamic world. Saudi Arabia is the only other country to exclude evolutionary theory from the school curriculum. Both Christian and Muslim creationists reject the theory of evolution.

- 11. (C) 'has been reading' के बदले ' was reading' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि past में यदि कोई घटना जारी रही हो और उसी बीच कोई घटना घटी हो तो जारी घटना के लिए Past Continuous और इस बीच घटने वाली घटना के लिए Simple Past का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे
 - a. When I went there, he was reading a novel.
 - b. He was reading a novel when I went there.
 - c. Whenever I saw him, he was reading a novel.
 - 'was reading' will be used instead of 'has been reading' because if an event is continuing in the past and an event has happened in the meantime, then Past Continuous for the continuing event and Simple Past for the event occurring in the meantime is used; As
 - i. When I went there, he was reading a novel.
 - ii. He was reading a novel when I went there.
 - iii. Whenever I saw him, he was reading a novel.
- 12. (C) 'any boy' के बदले 'any other boy' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि एक group के एक सदस्य की तुलना उसी group के अन्य सदस्यों से हो, तो Comparative Degree में 'any' के बाद 'other' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे
 - i. Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar.
 - > 'any other boy' will be used instead of 'any boy' because if a member of a group is compared with other members of the same group, then 'other' is used after 'any' in the comparative degree; As
 - i. Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar.
- 13. (B) CBDA

The Nobel Prize for Medicine this year will be awarded to Svante Pääbo, a Swedish geneticist and a director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. Science being of an increasingly collaborative and competitive nature, recent trends in Nobel Prizes suggest that there are usually multiple winners for every prize. It is a tribute to the originality and revolutionary implications of Pääbo's research that in a world perennially reshaped by advances in biology, he has been chosen as the lone winner of the Medicine or Physiology Prize this year — something not witnessed since 2016. Pääbo, 67, has quietly instigated a Copernican revolution

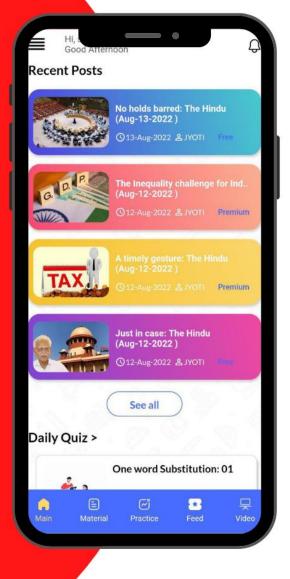
- 14. **Choppy waters** (phrase) troublesome, difficult or uncertain times.
- 15. A) Quip (noun) a funny and clever remark परिहास; चुटकुला

Unwieldy (noun) – cumbersome, awkward, clumsy, unmanageable, ponderous बोझिल

- 🗲 Slump (noun) Recession, downturn, decline, depression मंदी
- 🕨 **Diverse** (adjective) Varied, various, different, distinct विविध
- 🕨 Entreaty (noun) appeal, request, prayer विनती
- 🕨 Coherence (noun) consistency, coherency, integrity सम्बद्धता
- 16. E) Incentive (noun) stimulus, motivation, inducement, spur, encouragement प्रोत्साहन According to the given options all options are contextually correct.
- 17. A) Annual visa quotas for Indian chefs and yoga trainers, and a post-study work visa regime for Indian students will bolster ties, as would the approval of a double taxation avoidance agreement by Australia, which is expected to save millions of dollars a year for Indian IT firms.
- 18. **Galvanise** (verb) stimulate, spur, excite, inspire प्रेरित करना
 - Observation (noun) remark, comment, opinion, thought, statement टिप्पणी, विचार
 - Brilliance (noun) The state or quality of being brilliant प्रतिभा
 - Staggering (adjective) astonishing, overwhelming, amazing, breathtaking, astounding चौंका
 देने वाला
- 19. **Clique** (noun) Group, circle, faction, set, gang, coterie गुट
 - Setback (noun) –a reversal or check in progress. असफलता, झटका
 - Ambition (noun) aspiration, intention, goal, aim, objective, object, महत्वाकांक्षा
 - Outcome (noun) result, end result, consequence, net result, upshot परिणाम, नतीजा
- 20. **Shuffle one's feet** (phrase) To shift from position to position or move from place to place ਪੈਂ ਬੁਲੀਟਰਾ

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