

Green washing: On amendments and the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023

Changes to conservation laws **must** be **backed** by scientific evidence

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment **Bill**, 2023, that is being **deliberated** upon by a Joint Committee of Parliament, **is** a **contentious** piece of **legislation** that **signals** the complex challenges involved in **balancing** industrial development and the conservation of forests. While industrialisation **inevitably** means **usurping** greater **tracts** of forest land and **ecosystems**, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been the **mantelpiece** legislation that has **empowered** the state to **regulate** this and **impose** costs on such industrial **exploitation**. Originally meant for notified forests, a **landmark** Supreme Court **judgment**, in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad case (1996), among other things, **broadened** the scope of such protection to even those not officially classified so. India's forest cover has seen only **marginal** increases, as **biennial** reports of the Forest Survey of India **illustrate**. **Growth** in forest cover inside officially recorded forests **is stagnant**, or **at best incremental**. It is tree cover in **orchards**, plantations and village **homesteads** that has been **on the rise** and **supplementing** India's **claim** that 24% of its area is under forest and tree cover. India has committed to increasing this number to 33% and adding a **carbon sink** of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide this way, by 2030, as part of its international climate **commitments**.

The **existing** Forest (Conservation) **Act**, 1980 — in the Environment Ministry's **reckoning** — **was** insufficient for these **ends**, as it did not **incentivise** private agro-forestry and tree plantation activities. From 2019 to 2021, India added 1,540 square kilometres of forest cover of which 1,509 sq. km was outside recorded forest area. The new amendments to the Forest Act gave such **incentives** by clearly defining the limits of the 1996 judgment. Only land recorded as 'forest' in any government record on or after 1980 would **invoke provisions** of the Act. Forest land authorised by States for non-forestry uses between 1980-1996 would not invoke provisions of the Act. The amendments effectively mean States can no longer classify **unclassified** forest land, or **patches** of trees with forest-like characteristics as 'forest land'. The amendments also allow forest land, up to 100 km near India's borders, to be appropriated, without central approval, for "**strategic** and security" purposes. The primary **criticism** is that these amendments do not really contribute to regenerating natural forest, but rather incentivise **afforestation** for commercial ends. What is worrying is that the parliamentary **committee**, despite its **statutory privileges**, **has** not expressed any opinion or suggestion on **the way forward**. **Grooming** private forests might look good **in theory** but expecting them to be a permanent **carbon stock** is wishful thinking **given** that strong market incentives exist to use them as '**carbon credits**'. While new climate realities might **necessitate** changes to the way conservation laws are **interpreted**, these must be backed by **rigorous** scientific evidence.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Greenwashing** (noun) – misleading or deceptive publicity disseminated by an organization so as to present an environmentally responsible public image.
2. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, sanction, uphold, approve समर्थन करना
3. **Deliberate** (verb) – contemplate, ponder, consider, mull over, think about विचार-विमर्श करना
4. **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, disputable, debatable, arguable, disputed विवादास्पद
5. **Legislation** (noun) – lawmaking, statute making, enactment विधान
6. **Signal** (verb) – indicate, signify, denote, point to संकेत देना
7. **Balance** (verb) – equalize, even out/up, level, stabilize संतुलन बनाना
8. **Inevitably** (adverb) – unavoidably, necessarily, certainly अनिवार्य रूप से
9. **Usurp** (verb) – seize, take over, expropriate, commandeer हड़पना
10. **Tract** (noun) – stretch, expanse, area, region भू-भाग/ क्षेत्र
11. **Ecosystem** (noun) – a community of interdependent organisms and their physical environment पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
12. **Mantelpiece** (noun) – Here, it is used metaphorically to refer to an important, central law
13. **Empower** (verb) – authorize, entitle, permit, allow सशक्त करना
14. **Regulate** (verb) – control, govern, manage, supervise नियमित करना
15. **Impose** (verb) – levy, charge, apply, enforce. थोपना
16. **Exploitation** (noun) – utilization, use, making use of, making the most of शोषण
17. **Landmark** (adjective) – historic, significant, important ऐतिहासिक
18. **Broaden** (verb) – expand, enlarge, develop, spread विस्तार करना
19. **Marginal** (adjective) – slight, small, minor, insignificant मामूली
20. **Biennial** (adjective) – occurring every two years द्विवार्षिक
21. **Illustrate** (verb) – show, display, demonstrate, represent, exemplify. उदाहरण देकर स्पष्ट करना
22. **Stagnant** (adjective) – inactive, sluggish, slow ठहरा हुआ
23. **At best** (phrase) – only, simply, but, nothing but. उत्तम रूप में

24. **Incremental** (adjective) – increasing, growing, rising वृद्धिशील
25. **Orchard** (noun) – plantation, grove, vineyard बाग
26. **Homestead** (noun) – residence, dwelling, domicile, habitation घरगृहस्थी
27. **On the rise** (phrase) – increasing, growing, climbing, escalating बढ़ते हुए
28. **Supplement** (verb) – augment, increase, add to, enhance पूरक करना, जोड़ देना
29. **Claim** (noun)- assertion, declaration, statement, proclamation दावा
30. **Carbon sink** (noun) – something that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it releases as carbon dioxide
31. **Commitment** (noun) – pledge, promise, vow, guarantee प्रतिबद्धता
32. **Existing** (adjective) – current, present, extant मौजूदा
33. **Reckoning** (noun) – calculation, computation, count गणना
34. **Ends** (noun) – Purpose, goal, aim, उद्देश्य
35. **Incentivise** (verb) – motivate, encourage, stimulate प्रोत्साहित करना
36. **Incentive** (noun) – stimulus, inducement, encouragement प्रोत्साहन
37. **Invoke** (verb) – cite, refer to, bring forth, turn to, resort to आह्वान करना
38. **Provision** (noun) – provision, condition, term प्रावधान
39. **Unclassified** (adjective) – not arranged in any specific order or group अवर्गीकृत
40. **Patch** (noun) – a small area टुकड़े
41. **Strategic** (adjective) – relating to achieving long-term military advantage or overall goals.
42. **Criticism** (noun) – Censure, disapproval, condemnation, reproach, denunciation आलोचना
43. **Afforestation** (noun) – the process of establishing a forest, or stand of trees, in an area where there was no forest वृक्षारोपण
44. **Statutory** (adjective) – lawful, legal, constitutional विधानिक
45. **Privilege** (noun) – right, advantage, benefit विशेषाधिकार
46. **The way forward** (phrase) – the best or most suitable course of action for future progress आगे बढ़ने का मार्ग
47. **Groom** (verb) – prepare, train, develop तैयार करना
48. **In theory** (phrase) – hypothetically, ideally, on paper सिद्धांत के अनुसार

49. **Carbon stock** (phrase) – the amount of carbon that has been sequestered from the atmosphere and is now stored within the forest ecosystem
50. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, keeping in mind देखते हुए
51. **Carbon credit** (noun) – a permit that allows a country or organization to produce a certain amount of carbon emissions and that can be traded if the full allowance is not used
52. **Necessitate** (verb) – make necessary, require, entail, need, want, involve आवश्यक बनाना
53. **Interpret** (verb) – explain, elucidate, expound, clarify, spell out. व्याख्या करना
54. **Rigorous** (adjective) – strict, stringent, tough, severe, stern कठोर

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, currently under review by a joint parliamentary committee, proposes significant changes to India's forest conservation laws.
2. It aims to address the challenge of balancing industrial development with forest conservation, a contentious issue given the trade-offs involved.
3. The current Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, serves as the main legislation to regulate and impose costs on industrial exploitation of forests, applicable to notified forests and areas not officially classified as forests, as per a 1996 Supreme Court ruling.
4. Despite these protections, India's forest cover has only marginally increased, with growth primarily in non-officially recorded forests, orchards, plantations, and village homesteads.
5. Currently, around 24% of India's total land area is covered by forests and trees, a figure India has committed to increase to 33% by 2030, in alignment with its international climate commitments.
6. The Environment Ministry believes the existing Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is insufficient for these ends, as it does not provide incentives for private agro-forestry and tree plantation activities.
7. Between 2019 and 2021, India added 1,540 square kilometers of forest cover, most of which was outside recorded forest areas.
8. The proposed amendments aim to incentivize private forestry activities by defining the scope of protected forest lands as per the 1996 Supreme Court judgement.
9. The provisions of the Act will apply only to land recorded as 'forest' in government records on or after 1980.
10. Forest land authorized by States for non-forestry uses between 1980-1996 will not fall under the provisions of the Act.
11. States will no longer be able to classify unrecorded forest land or patches of trees as 'forest land'.
12. The proposed amendments also allow for forest land near India's borders (up to 100 km) to be used for "strategic and security" purposes without central approval.
13. Critics argue that these amendments incentivize commercial afforestation rather than natural forest regeneration.
14. The parliamentary committee reviewing the Bill has yet to express a clear stance or suggest a way forward.
15. The editorial emphasizes that any changes to conservation laws must be supported by rigorous scientific evidence, warning that relying on private forests for permanent carbon storage might be wishful thinking due to strong market incentives to use them as 'carbon credits'.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is a critical aspect to consider when making changes to conservation laws, as mentioned in the passage about the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023?** [Editorial]
 - A. These changes should consider the Supreme Court's rulings and interpretations of the laws.
 - B. These changes should prioritize industrialization over the conservation of forests to support economic growth.
 - C. These changes should be supported by scientific evidence to ensure effective implementation.
 - D. These changes should aim at increasing the forest and tree cover to at least 33% to meet India's international climate commitments.
2. **Based on the passage, which of the following best articulates the main criticism of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023?**
 - A. The Bill aims to encourage private agro-forestry and tree plantation activities, but critics argue that this would lead to deforestation since strong market incentives exist to use forests as 'carbon credits'.
 - B. The Bill limits the definition of 'forest' to land recorded as such in any government record on or after 1980, excluding lands authorized by States for non-forestry uses between 1980-1996. Critics contend that this fails to safeguard unclassified forest lands and places with forest-like characteristics, thereby undermining biodiversity conservation.
 - C. The Bill permits appropriation of forest land up to 100 km near India's borders for "strategic and security" purposes without central approval. Critics argue that this provision threatens the environmental integrity of border areas, potentially leading to ecological imbalances.
 - D. The Bill seeks to incentivize afforestation for commercial purposes rather than for the regeneration of natural forests. Critics opine that this commercial focus fails to ensure the permanence of carbon stocks, threatening climate stability.
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements can be accurately inferred?**
 - A. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, solely addresses the issues related to the industrial exploitation of forests without any consideration to India's international climate commitments.
 - B. The growth in India's forest cover is primarily due to the expansion of forests officially recorded, not due to the rise in tree cover in orchards, plantations, and village homesteads.
 - C. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 initially only applied to notified forests but was later expanded to include those not officially classified due to the T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad case in 1996.
 - D. The Forest Survey of India biennial reports have shown a consistent, significant increase in India's forest cover.
4. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true about the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023?**

- A. The new amendments to the Forest Act permit forest land, up to 100 km near India's borders, to be used for "strategic and security" purposes without the need for central approval.
- B. The amendment allows States to classify patches of trees with forest-like characteristics as 'forest land'.
- C. The primary criticism of these amendments is that they do not really contribute to regenerating natural forest, but rather incentivise afforestation for commercial ends.
- D. The parliamentary committee has not expressed any opinion or suggestion on the potential impact of these amendments.
5. **Based on the tone of the passage, how does the author view the amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023?**
- A. The author is supportive of the amendments, seeing them as a way to balance industrial development and conservation.
- B. The author is neutral towards the amendments, providing an objective analysis of the situation.
- C. The author is critical of the amendments, believing that they don't contribute to natural forest regeneration and lack scientific evidence.
- D. The author is unsure about the amendments, implying that more research needs to be done to determine their effects.
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
- A. The importance of commercial afforestation.
- B. The balance between industrial development and forest conservation.
- C. The necessity of strategic and security purposes in forest land usage.
- D. The encouragement of private agro-forestry and tree plantation activities.
7. Which of the following is a synonym for "**contentious**"?
- A. Progressional
- B. Regressive
- C. Decreasing
- D. Diminishing
8. Find the antonym for the word "**usurping**".
- A. Seizing
- B. Occupying
- C. Surrendering
- D. Grasping
9. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann urged the Union Government to do the needful in his address at a state-level function to mark Sarabha's martyrdom day on Wednesday.
- Q. The demand to confer the Bharat Ratna on Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Lala Lajpat Rai and other freedom fighters deserves to be welcomed and seconded unequivocally.
- R. The land of revolutionaries and warriors that also has the historical distinction of being the country's sword arm.

- S. The honour, which is bestowed in recognition of 'exceptional service/performance of the highest order', is long overdue for these lion-hearted sons of Punjab,
A. SRQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**
He built a website from scratch.
A. A website has been built from scratch by him.
B. A website was built from scratch by him.
C. A website was building from scratch by him.
D. A website is built from scratch by him.
11. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. Feeling the heat of the agreement signed at last year's Glasgow COP, India, though committed to the pact as it enhances its renewable energy sector, has realised that the developed countries have ducked their responsibility.
Q. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav was categorical that no fuel be singled out in the fight against climate change. He laid emphasis on the phasing down — rather than phasing out — of all fossil fuels.
R. This is evident from the baseless singling out of coal from among the fossil fuels as the villain of the piece in Glasgow. India was particularly projected in a bad light for its continued dependence on coal in around 50% of its power generation.
S. Having learnt a lesson from the earlier UN climate summit COP conferences where the West tended to be more assertive than the developing world, India has at the ongoing COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, been, and rightly so, vocal about the measures for combating the climate crisis.
A. SQRP B.PSRQ C.SQPR D.PRQS
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The dog's ears perked up as it _____ the faint sound of its owner's footsteps.
A. ascertained
B. deciphered
C. surmised
D. discerned
13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Fatehabad in Haryana over the past four years.
Q. It smacks of corruption and is a poor reflection on the working of a network of agencies meant to procure, protect and distribute the golden yield for consumption by millions of hungry mouths in the country.
R. The saga of damaged wheat grains weighing nearly 45,000 metric tonnes and worth Rs 83 crore that could have fed lakhs of people is, sadly, more than just the story of precious foodgrains being left to rot in open plinths at
S. The investigation by the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Haryana points to a system that has become rotten as greed eats into the conscience of the authorities concerned.
A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ
14. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.

His recent promotion caused his colleagues to be envious of his newfound success.

- A. resentful
- B. apathetic
- C. admiring
- D. disdainful

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

- P. During the COP27 summit in Egypt, India has rightly put the onus on rich countries to substantially enhance the quantum of climate finance to developing countries, while observing unsparingly that the commitment of \$100 billion made over a decade ago by developed nations is 'not only minuscule, given the scale of needs, but has also not been achieved yet.'
 - Q. Rich countries mobilised \$52.5 billion in 2013 and \$44.6 billion in 2015; the figure reached \$80.4 billion in 2019 and rose to \$83.3 billion in the succeeding year.
 - R. The flow of funds, however, has been erratic and inadequate over the years.
 - S. It was at COP15 in 2009 that developed countries had committed to jointly mobilise \$100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing nations withstand the impact of climate change.
- A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

16. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom**

Rain on someone's parade

- A. To purposely ruin someone's plans or spoil their enjoyment
- B. To express sympathy for someone's misfortune
- C. To experience a sudden change of plans due to bad weather
- D. To unexpectedly help someone in a difficult situation

Comprehension

The Law Commission's decision to solicit views from the public on the idea of a uniform civil code _____1_____ to be a political initiative aimed at bringing the potentially divisive issue under focus in the run-up to next year's general election. The Commission, the 22nd such panel, _____2_____ claimed that years have elapsed since similar views were sought by the previous panel, and that a fresh effort was needed to _____3_____ varied opinions. The 21st Commission had released a consultation paper in 2018 that categorically said a uniform civil code was "neither necessary nor desirable" at that stage. In a well-reasoned document, it had then argued that the focus of initiatives to reform the various personal laws should be the elimination of all forms of discrimination rather than an attempt to bring about uniformity in the laws governing various religions. The document was progressive in nature, inasmuch as it emphasised non-discrimination over uniformity, and recognised that there could be diverse means of governing aspects of personal law such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption instead of imposing a single set of rules on society. This would _____4_____ the removal of discriminatory provisions, especially those that affect women, and adoption of some overarching norms rooted in equality.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Appear
 - B. Appeared
 - C. Appearing
 - D. Appears
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
- A. Have
 - B. Has
 - C. Is
 - D. Was
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. Garner
 - B. Scatter
 - C. Garnered
 - D. Throw
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. Entails
 - B. Needed
 - C. Involves
 - D. Entail

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **C) These changes should be supported by scientific evidence to ensure effective implementation.**

The passage clearly indicates that any changes to the conservation laws must be backed by scientific evidence. Although other elements such as Supreme Court rulings, industrialization considerations, and targets for increasing forest cover are discussed, the necessity for scientific evidence in legislating amendments is specifically mentioned as a requirement for changes to conservation laws. While options A and D discuss important considerations related to the law, they do not focus on what should be considered when making amendments. Option B contradicts the overall message of balancing industrialization and conservation.

2. **D.) The Bill seeks to incentivize afforestation for commercial purposes rather than for the regeneration of natural forests. Critics opine that this commercial focus fails to ensure the permanence of carbon stocks, threatening climate stability.**

The passage explicitly states, "The primary criticism is that these amendments do not really contribute to regenerating natural forest, but rather incentivise afforestation for commercial ends." This statement supports option D. Though other points discussed in options A, B, and C might also have their critics, the passage specifically identifies the commercial focus and failure to regenerate natural forests as the primary criticism of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023.

3. **C) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 initially only applied to notified forests but was later expanded to include those not officially classified due to the T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad case in 1996.**

Option A is incorrect because the passage does not state that the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, ignores India's international climate commitments. On the contrary, India's climate commitments are mentioned, which indicates a relationship between legislation and these commitments.

Option B is incorrect as the passage explicitly mentions that growth in India's forest cover is not due to the expansion of officially recorded forests, but rather due to the increase in tree cover in orchards, plantations, and village homesteads.

Option C is correct because it is correct about the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and its subsequent expansion following the T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad case in 1996.

Option D is incorrect because the passage clearly states that growth in forest cover inside officially recorded forests is stagnant or at best incremental, suggesting no significant increase as per the Forest Survey of India's biennial reports.

4. Option B, is not true according to the passage. The passage clearly specifies, "The amendments effectively mean States can no longer classify unclassified forest land, or patches of trees with forest-like characteristics as 'forest land'."

A is true according to the passage which states, "The amendments also allow forest land, up to 100 km near India's borders, to be appropriated, without central approval, for 'strategic and security' purposes."

C is also true. The passage says, "The primary criticism is that these amendments do not really contribute to regenerating natural forest, but rather incentivise afforestation for commercial ends."

D is true as the passage reveals, "What is worrying is that the parliamentary committee, despite its statutory privileges, has not expressed any opinion or suggestion on the way forward."

5. **C) The author is critical of the amendments, believing that they don't contribute to natural forest regeneration and lack scientific evidence.**

The tone of the passage shows the author's critical view of the amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023. They emphasize that these amendments incentivise afforestation for commercial ends and do not contribute to natural forest regeneration. The author also expresses concern about these changes not being supported by rigorous scientific evidence.

6. **B) The balance between industrial development and forest conservation.**

The passage primarily focuses on the challenges and complexities involved in balancing industrial development and forest conservation. While it discusses several other aspects, such as the incentivisation of private agro-forestry and the effects of forest legislation on India's international climate commitments, the overarching theme centers on finding a balance between industrial progress and the conservation of forests. The discussion of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, serves to illustrate this theme.

7. **A) Progressional**

"Incremental (वृद्धिशील)" is used in the passage to refer to the slow, small, or gradual increase or change in the growth of forest cover. "Progressional" is a synonym as it also refers to a series of events or steps that lead to a particular result, often indicating progress or development.

8. **C) Surrendering**

In the given passage, "usurping (अतिक्रमण करना)" is used to refer to taking over forest land for industrial development. The antonym would therefore be a word that means giving up or yielding, which is "surrendering" in this context.

9. **B) QPSR**

Q: Q starts off the discussion, stating the demand to confer the Bharat Ratna on various freedom fighters.

P: P follows this by telling us that Punjab's Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann, is pushing for this demand in a speech at a state-level function. This paragraph directly continues the topic introduced in Q.

S: S continues this idea further, adding more details about the honour and who it's overdue for, linking directly to P.

R: Finally, R finishes the passage with a poetic note, giving more context about Punjab, and why its sons are deserving of this honour, tying back to the notion of 'lion-hearted sons of Punjab' from S.

10. B.) A website was built from scratch by him.

11. C) **SQPR**

S: This sentence sets up the situation where India has learned from past conferences and is now more assertive.

Q: Sentence Q continues from the previous one, introducing what India's stance is at the current conference, represented by the Environment Minister.

P: Sentence P provides more context and explains why India is more assertive, giving a historical perspective.

R: Therefore, the sequence SQPR connects the ideas logically and maintains a coherent narrative flow.

12. D.) **discerned**

- **Ascertain** (verb) – to find out or discover something with certainty through careful observation, investigation, or analysis. निर्धारित करना
- **Decipher** (verb) – to decode or interpret something that is difficult or obscure, such as a code, handwriting, or a language समझना
- **Surmise** (verb) – to guess or infer something based on incomplete or uncertain evidence or information अनुमान लगाना
- **Discern** (verb) – to perceive, recognize, or distinguish something, often with difficulty or by careful observation पहचानना

13. A) **RPQS**

R: The first sentence should start with R as it introduces the "saga of damaged wheat grains" which is the main subject of the whole passage.

P: This sentence continues from the previous one, mentioning the places where the problem has been occurring over the past four years.

Q: Sentence Q provides a comment or judgment on the situation described, i.e., the wasting of wheat grains. It blames corruption and ineffective working of the concerned agencies.

S: This sentence closes the paragraph with the outcome of an investigation by a department that further points to corruption and greed in the system.

14. C) **admiring**- appreciative, complimentary प्रशंसायुक्त

- **Resentful** (adjective) – bitter, aggrieved, disgruntled, irritated, offended क्रोधी
- **apathetic** (adjective) – indifferent, uninterested, unmotivated, dispassionate, listless उदासीन
- **envious** (adjective) – jealous, covetous, desirous, green-eyed, begrudging ईर्ष्यालु
- **disdainful** (adjective) – contemptuous, scornful, derisive, condescending, superior अभिमानी

15. B) PSRQ

P: Sentence P introduces the topic and sets the context by mentioning India's viewpoint on climate finance.

S: S provides the background information about the commitment made by developed countries.

R: R highlights the inadequacy and inconsistency of the flow of funds.

Q: Finally, Sentence Q provides specific figures related to the amount of money mobilized by rich countries in different years, reinforcing the argument made in Sentence P.

16. A. **Rain on someone's parade** (phrase) – To purposely ruin someone's plans or spoil their enjoyment योजना या उत्सव को खराब करना

17. D.) Appears.

sentence का subject, "The Law Commission's decision to solicit views" singular है, और वाक्य present tense में है। इसलिए, जो verb इससे सहमत है वह "appears" है।

This is because the subject of the sentence, "The Law Commission's decision to solicit views," is singular, and the sentence is in present tense. Therefore, the verb that agrees with it is "appears."

Appear - This would be correct if the subject were plural. Appeared - This would be correct if the sentence were in past tense. Appearing - This would be correct if the sentence required a progressive tense.

18. B) "Has."

वाक्य का subject, "The Commission, the 22nd such panel," singular है और इस प्रकार, जो verb present perfect tense में इससे सहमत है वह Has है।

The subject of the sentence, "The Commission, the 22nd such panel," is singular and thus, the verb that agrees with it in present perfect tense is "has." "Have" is incorrect because the subject is singular.

19. A. "Garner."

verb के base form का उपयोग किया जाता है modal के बाद। "Scatter" - इस verb का वाक्य के सन्दर्भ में कोई अर्थ नहीं है।

The base form of the verb is used after the modal verb "was needed to" to express necessity

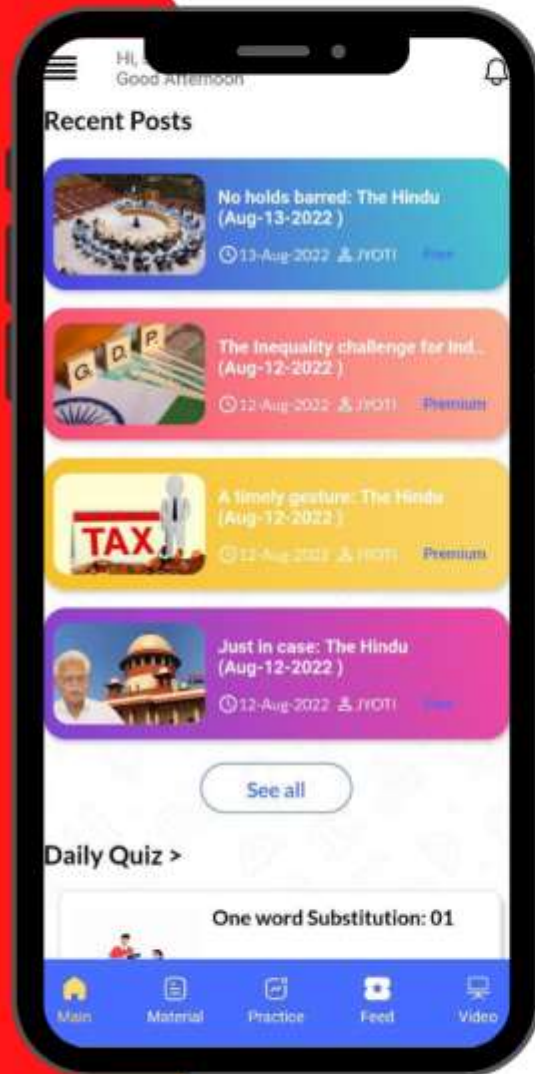
or obligation. "Scatter" - This verb doesn't make sense in the context of the sentence. Garnered -The past form of the verb is not used after "was needed to."

20. D) "Entail."

यहां verb 'entail' का अर्थ किसी आवश्यक भाग या परिणाम के रूप में किसी चीज़ को शामिल करना है, जो context में फिट बैठता है। " Entails " यह सही होता यदि subject singular होता, लेकिन यहां subject एक प्रयास है जो एक क्रिया है न कि कोई व्यक्ति या वस्तु। " Needed " यह एक past tense verb है, और वाक्य में to के बाद base form की आवश्यकता होती है।

The verb 'entail' here means to involve something as a necessary part or consequence, which fits in the context.

"Entails" This would be correct if the subject were singular, but here the subject is an attempt which is an action and not a person or thing. "Needed" - This is a past tense verb, and the sentence requires a verb in base form after 'to.'



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