

## Polluted rivers

A **report** of the Central Pollution Control Board, **tabled** in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, **says** that around 46 per cent (279 out of 603) of the rivers **monitored** across the country are polluted. This figure is **alarming** and **puts a question mark** on various Central and state projects worth crores of rupees **undertaken** to tackle **riverine** pollution in the past few years. The work is primarily focused on **setting up sewage treatment plants** as the **dumping** of untreated domestic and industrial **effluents** into the water bodies **is** considered the main villain. However, a **multi-pronged** approach is needed to tackle the problem as the **presence** of other **contaminants** such as plastic and pharmaceutical waste in rivers **is** also found to **be on the rise**.

The **silver lining** **visible** in the comparative analysis, showing that the number of polluted river **stretches** (PRS) decreased from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022, **is** **laudable**, even though the worst PRS have remained unchanged. In fact, **the water quality** of the Sabarmati, which was found to be the second most polluted river, **has deteriorated** in the past five years. This, despite the Gujarat High Court taking **suo motu** notice of the authorities' inability to **tame** the rising pollution and ordering interventionist measures. Similarly, the **execution** of the Namami Gange project to clean and **rejuvenate** the Ganga and its **tributaries** **leaves** much to be desired as the pollution levels are worryingly high, despite Rs 20,000 crore being **earmarked** for it in 2014. With the government approving Mission-II of the campaign with a Rs 22,500-crore **outlay**, there is hope for better results.



Clearly, the river-cleaning act needs to be taken up **on a war footing** after a review of the methods adopted **so far**. Clean and free-flowing rivers are the **key** to **sustaining** the **ecological** system, including the **aquatic flora** and **fauna** and farmlands along the **riverbanks**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Table** (verb) – Present, submit, produce, introduce, display रखना/प्रस्तुत करना
2. **Monitor** (verb) – Track, observe, oversee, watch, supervise निगरानी करना
3. **Alarming** (adjective) – Shocking, distressing, worrying, startling, unnerving चिंता जनक
4. **Put a question mark over** (phrase) – Doubt, question, challenge, raise doubts about, cast aspersions on संदेह करना
5. **Undertake** (verb) – Commence, embark on, tackle, take up, commit to कार्य में लेना
6. **Riverine** (adjective) – Definition: Relating to, situated on, or bordering a river. नदी संबंधित
7. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, found, create, initiate, start स्थापित करना
8. **Sewage treatment plant** (noun) – A facility designed to treat wastewater from domestic and industrial sources.
9. **Dumping** (noun) – the act of getting rid of something that is not wanted
10. **Effluent** (noun) – Outflow, discharge, emission, waste प्रवाह
11. **Multi-pronged** (adjective) – Comprehensive, multifaceted, multi-dimensional, diversified बहु-आयामी
12. **Contaminant** (noun) – Pollutant, impurity, toxin, poison, waste product प्रदूषक
13. **Be on the rise** (phrase) – Increasing, growing, escalating, mounting बढ़ रहे हैं
14. **Silver lining** (phrase) – Hopeful sign, positive aspect, encouraging indication सकारात्मक पहलु
15. **Stretch** (noun) – Area, Span, length, extent, reach खंड/ क्षेत्र
16. **Laudable** (adjective) – Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, applaudable सराहनीय
17. **Deteriorate** (verb) – Worsen, degrade, decline, decay बिगड़ना
18. **Suo motu** (noun) – On its own motion; usually refers to actions taken by a court on its own initiative. स्वतः
19. **Tame** (verb) – Control, subdue; make less powerful and easier to control पर काबू पाना
20. **Execution** (noun) – Implementation, accomplishment, performance कार्यान्वयन
21. **Rejuvenate** (verb) – Revitalize, refresh, renew, restore नवीकरण करना
22. **Tributary** (noun) – Stream, branch, arm, river, stream, offshoot सहायक नदी
23. **Earmark** (verb) – Allocate, set aside, reserve, designate विशेष प्रयोजन के लिए रखना

24. **Outlay** (noun) – Expenditure, spending, disbursement, cost खर्च

25. **On a war footing** (phrase) – In a state of readiness for war; urgently and quickly preparing for action. युद्धस्तर पर

26. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to this point, up till now, hitherto अब तक

27. **Key** (noun) – Solution, answer, means, method कुंजी/हल

28. **Sustain** (verb) – Maintain, uphold, support, bolster बनाए रखना

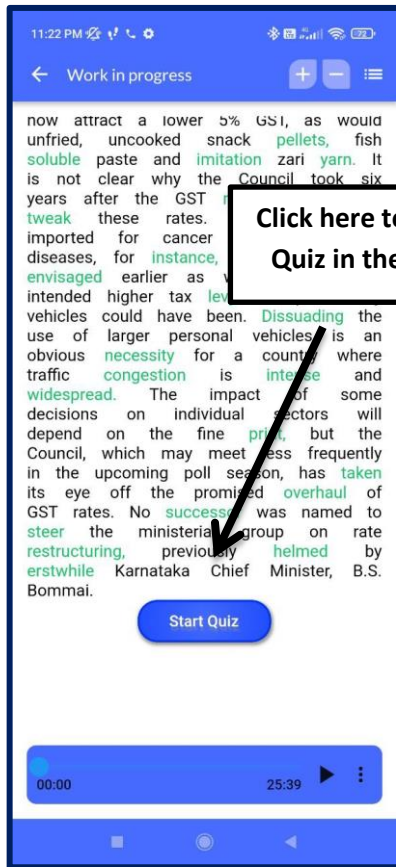
29. **Ecological** (adjective) – Environmental, nature-centered, conservationist पारिस्थितिकी

30. **Aquatic** (adjective) – Water-related, underwater, marine, oceanic जलीय

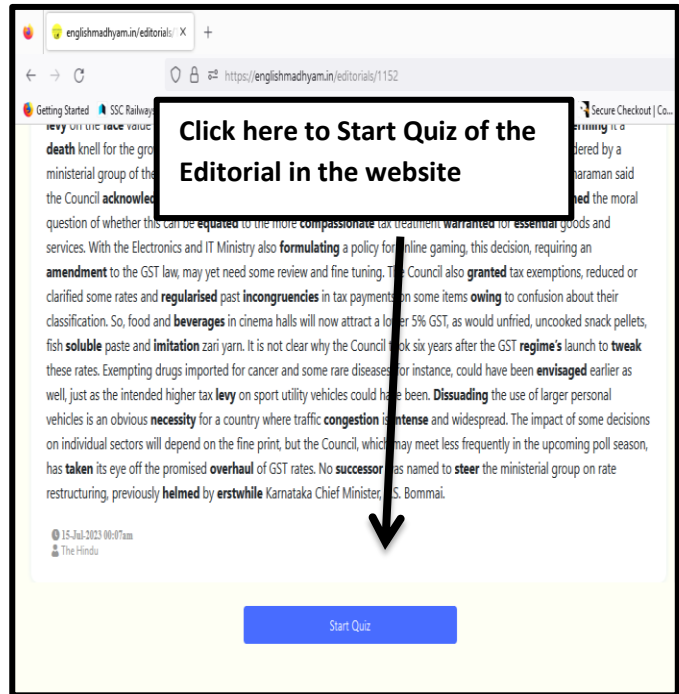
31. **Flora** (noun) – Plants, vegetation, plant life वनस्पति

32. **Fauna** (noun) – Animals, wildlife, animal life प्राणी

33. **Riverbank** (noun) – Riverside, river's edge, river shore नदी का किनारा



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## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Central Pollution Control Board report indicates 46% of rivers monitored in India are polluted.
2. Out of 603 rivers, 279 are found to be polluted.
3. Questions arise on the efficiency of Central and state projects aimed at riverine pollution.
4. Majority of efforts have been focused on setting up sewage treatment plants.
5. Untreated domestic and industrial effluents are primary culprits for pollution.
6. There's a rising presence of contaminants like plastic and pharmaceutical waste in rivers.
7. A positive observation is the decrease in the number of polluted river stretches from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022.
8. The worst polluted river stretches, however, remain unchanged.
9. The Sabarmati River has seen a deterioration in water quality over the past five years.
10. The Gujarat High Court intervened due to the authorities' failure to control pollution in the Sabarmati.
11. The Namami Gange project's execution to clean the Ganga river is unsatisfactory despite significant funding.
12. An additional Rs 22,500-crore outlay has been approved for Mission-II of the Namami Gange project.
13. There is a necessity to review the river-cleaning methods used to date.
14. Clean rivers are essential for sustaining ecological systems.
15. Aquatic life and farmlands along riverbanks are heavily dependent on the health of these rivers.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern based

1. Which of the following statements is TRUE based on the given passage? **[Editorial page]**
- (i) The number of polluted river stretches increased from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022.
  - (ii) The main cause of river pollution is the dumping of untreated domestic and industrial effluents into the water bodies.
  - (iii) The Namami Gange project had an earmarked budget of Rs 20,000 crore in 2014.
- A. (i), (ii)
  - B. (ii), (iii)
  - C. (i), (iii)
  - D. (i), (iii), (ii)
2. "Clearly, the river-cleaning act needs to be taken up on a war footing after a review of the methods adopted so far. Clean and free-flowing rivers are the key to sustaining the ecological system, including the aquatic flora and fauna and farmlands along the riverbanks."  
**Which of the following statement cannot be inferred from the given paragraph?**
- A. River-cleaning activities need to be intensified.
  - B. Clean rivers are crucial for the ecosystem.
  - C. The methods of river-cleaning adopted so far have been entirely successful.
  - D. The ecological system depends on clean rivers for aquatic flora and fauna.
3. **What tone is most evident in the passage?**
- A. Optimistic
  - B. Neutral
  - C. Critical
  - D. Pessimistic
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
- A. The effectiveness of river-cleaning projects across the country.
  - B. The increase in pharmaceutical waste in rivers.
  - C. The importance of having sewage treatment plants.
  - D. The ecological significance of rivers to aquatic flora and fauna.
5. **Based on the passage, which of the following is a synonym for "alarming"?**
- A. Calming
  - B. Soothing
  - C. Distressing
  - D. Pleasing

**Direction: In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number.**

India's goods exports \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ from a nearly 17% dip in October to a \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_0.6% uptick in November. While the value of exports recovered to \$32 billion from \$29.8 billion in October, it is still significantly below the \$39 billion averaged between April and September. Imports growth moderated to 5.4% with the value of shipments slipping

to \$55.9 billion — a level last seen in February 2022, which was followed by seven months of import bills of around \$60 billion. The merchandise trade deficit eased below \$25 billion for the first time in five months. The \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ of some commodities' prices may help curb the import bill and deficit to some extent, but this could cut both ways as the value of some exports that boomed because of global price trends earlier, will also decline. A part of the import bill \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ was triggered by lower non-oil cargo, signalling slowing domestic demand, but non-oil exports' performance is a greater worry. Their share in exports growth has been shrinking since June, with the \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ accelerating for many sectors from September to November — engineering goods that drove much of India's record \$422 billion goods exports in 2021-22, contracted 11.3% while textiles fell a steeper 25%.

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

- A. Refashioned
- B. Suppressed
- C. Rebounded
- D. Marred

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

- A. Mild
- B. Indigenous
- C. Robust
- D. Overwhelming

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

- A. Spark
- B. Alliance
- C. Disincentive
- D. Easing

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

- A. Break
- B. Dip
- C. Loaf
- D. Patronage

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

- A. Pace
- B. Enforcement
- C. Surge
- D. Contraction

**Directions: 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.**

11. A. Archipalego  
B. Archipelago  
C. Archepilego  
D. Archepeliego

12. A. Inncarcerration

- B. Incorrecceration
- C. Incarceration
- D. Incarceration

**Directions: In this section each item consists of six sentences of a passage. The first and sixth sentences are given as S1 and S6. The middle four sentences in each have been jumbled up and labelled as P, Q, R and S. You are required to find the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.**

13. **S1.** Degenerative and man-made diseases, or rather, non-communicable diseases mark epidemiological transition in the contemporary world.
- P.** Scholars reiterate that epidemiological transition and structural change in the disease pattern are inevitable.
- Q.** This transition is the result of rapid increments in urbanization and industrialization.
- R.** He argued that the disease pattern is shifting from the predominance of infectious and parasitic diseases to chronic and man-made diseases.
- S.** Omran's epidemiological transition theory, 1971 portrayed a clear picture of the changing pattern of diseases prevalent all over the world.
- S6.** This transition has led to the rise of living standards in general, whereby people enjoy a sedentary lifestyle with good socio-economic profile.
- A. SRQP      B. PSRQ      C. PQRS      D. RQPS

**Directions: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Given below each sentence are four sequences namely (a), (b), (c) and (d). You are required to re-arrange the jumbled parts of the sentence and mark response accordingly.**

14. **P.** or the opposite
- Q.** where you say one thing
- R.** irony is a figure of speech
- S.** while you mean another
- A. RSQP      B. QSPR      C. RQSP      D. PSQR

**Directions (23-25): 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.**

15. **I don't like being seen in tears by people.**
- A. I don't like people had been seeing me in tears.
  - B. I don't like people seeing me in tears.
  - C. I don't like people to see me in tears.
  - D. I don't like myself to be seen in tears.
16. **My brother likes cricket.**
- A. Cricket was like by my brother.
  - B. Cricket is like by my brother.
  - C. Cricket is liked by my brother.
  - D. Cricket was liked by my brother.
17. **They flew a kite in the evening.**



- A. A kite was being flown by them in the evening.
- B. In the evening, a kite have been flown by them.
- C. A kite has been flown by them since evening.
- D. A kite was flown by them in the evening.

**Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.**

18. **She said to me, "The charlatan will be breaking into the safe."**

- A. She told me that the charlatan would be breaking into the safe.
- B. She said to me that the charlatan will be breaking in the safe.
- C. She said to me that the charlatan can be breaking into the safe.
- D. She said to me that the charlatan is breaking into the safe.

19. **She said, "She must leave all the bad habits."**

- A. She said she has to leave all the bad habits
- B. She said that she must have leave all the bad habits
- C. She said that she had to leave all the bad habits.
- D. She said that she could leave all the bad habits

20. **Priya said, "Yes, I am confounded."**

- A. Priya admitted that she was confound.
- B. Priya admit that she was confounded.
- C. Priya admitted that she was confounded.
- D. Priya admitted that she is confounded.

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

21. **Extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources**

- A. Fossils
- B. Parsimony
- C. Callous
- D. Labyrinth

22. **A drug or other substance that includes sleep**

- A. Soporific
- B. Hierarchy
- C. Misologist
- D. Dissertation

23. **Poem written on the death of someone loved and lost**

- A. Scullery
- B. Irrevocable
- C. Elegy
- D. Antidote

**Directions: Find out the error, if any –**

24. The teacher said (A)/ that the building adjacent with his house (B)/ needed repairs. (C)/ No Error(D)



25. The Headmaster with all his senior teachers (A)/ have come (B)/ to attend the meeting. (C)/ No Error (D)

## Answers

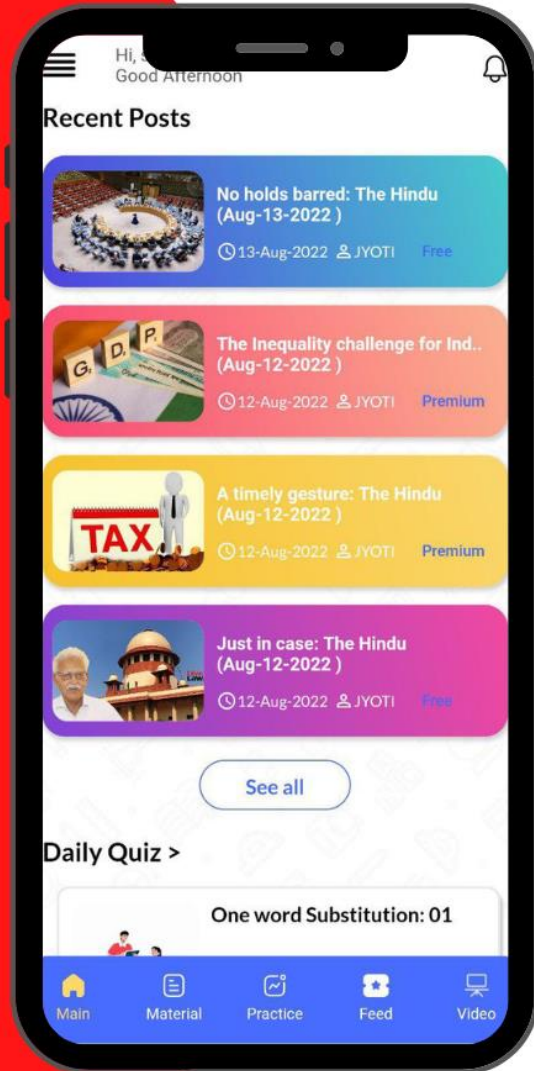
1. B 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. C 6. C 7. A 8. D 9. B 10. D 11. B 12. D 13. B  
14. C 15. B 16. C 17. D 18. A 19. C 20. C 21. B 22. A 23. C 24. B 25. B

## Explanation

1. B) The passage states that the number of polluted river stretches (PRS) decreased from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022. Statement (i), however, mentions that PRS increased from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022, which is contrary to the information given in the passage. Thus option B is correct.
2. C) The paragraph mentions the need to "take up [the river-cleaning act] on a war footing after a review of the methods adopted so far," suggesting that there is room for improvement in the methods used. It does not state that the methods have been entirely successful. The other options (A, B, and D) are directly inferred from the text.
3. C) Throughout the passage, there's a clear criticism of the measures taken so far to combat river pollution. Phrases like "puts a question mark on various Central and state projects", "inability to tame the rising pollution", "execution of the Namami Gange project...leaves much to be desired", and "Clearly, the river-cleaning act needs to be taken up on a war footing after a review of the methods adopted so far" highlight this tone.
4. A) The passage primarily focuses on the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of the river-cleaning projects and the alarming state of river pollution despite massive investments. The other options are mentioned in the passage but are not the main theme or primary focus of the content.
5. C) The passage mentions that the figure related to the pollution of rivers is "alarming." This suggests a sense of urgent concern or worry, making "distressing" the most appropriate synonym.
6. C) **Rebound** (verb) – Recover, rally, bounce back, return to normal, pick up पलटना
  - **Refashion** (verb) – alter, change, modify, transform, renovate नया रूपदेना
  - **Suppress** (verb) –repress, restrain, curb, stem, control दबाना
  - **Mar** (verb) – spoil, ruin, impair, upset, damage प्रभावित करना/ बिगाडना
7. A) **Mild** (adjective) – slight, minor, trivial मामूली
  - **Indigenous** (adjective) – Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native. स्वदेशी
  - **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful मज़बूत
  - **Overwhelming** (adjective) – Very large, profuse, enormous, immense, inordinate ज़बर्दस्त
8. D) **Easing** (noun) – Reduction, lessening, slackening, moderation कमी /नरमी
  - **Spark** (noun) – a sense of liveliness and excitement. चिंगारी, उत्साह, जोश
  - **Alliance** (noun) – association, coalition, union, treaty, pact गठबंधन

- **Disincentive** (noun) – Deterrent, discouragement, hindrance, impediment, encumbrance, lack of encouragement निरुत्साहन/निराशाजनक
9. B) **Dip** (noun) – Fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, plunge गिरावट
- **Break** (noun) –disruption, breakdown, pause, halt विराम
  - **Loaf** (noun) – share, portion. हिस्सा
  - **Patronage** (noun) – support, backing, protection. संरक्षण
10. D) **Contraction** (noun) – Reduction, Shrinkage, Tightening संकुचन
- **Pace** (noun) – speed, rate, swiftness, quickness गति
  - **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, coercion, enforce, execution, implementing अमल, प्रवर्तन
  - **Surge** (noun) – Sudden rise उछाल
11. B) **Archipelago** (noun) –an extensive group of islands. द्वीपसमूह
12. D) **Incarceration** (noun) – imprisonment, internment, custody, detention कैद /कारावास
13. B) **PSRQ**  
 Degenerative and man-made diseases, or rather, non-communicable diseases mark epidemiological transition in the contemporary world. Scholars reiterate that epidemiological transition and structural change in the disease pattern are inevitable. Omran's epidemiological transition theory, 1971 portrayed a clear picture of the changing pattern of diseases prevalent all over the world. He argued that the disease pattern is shifting from the predominance of infectious and parasitic diseases to chronic and man-made diseases. This transition is the result of rapid increments in urbanization and industrialization. This transition has led to the rise of living standards in general, whereby people enjoy a sedentary lifestyle with good socio-economic profile.
14. **C) RQSP**  
 Irony is a figure of speech where you say one thing while you mean another or the opposite.
15. B) I don't like people seeing me in tears.
16. C) Cricket is liked by my brother.
17. D) A kite was flown by them in the evening.
18. A) She told me that the charlatan would be breaking into the safe.
19. C) She said that she had to leave all the bad habits.
20. C) Priya admitted that she was confounded.
21. B) **Parsimony** – Extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources कंजूसी
- **Fossils** – Remains or prehistoric animal or plant preserved by being buried in earth जीवाश्मों
  - **Callous**– Showing or having cruel disgrace to others कठोर

- **Labyrinth** – A complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze भूलभुलैयाँ
22. A) **Soporific** – A drug or other substance that induces sleep निद्राजनक
- **Hierarchy** – The organization of people at different ranks in an administrative body पदानुक्रम
  - **Misologist** – Hater of learning
  - **Dissertation** – A writing on a particular subject शोध-निबंध
23. C) **Elegy** – Poem written on the death of someone loved and lost शोक-गीत
- **Scullery** – A place of washing dishes adjoining kitchen बरतन सफ़ाई स्थान
  - **Irrevocable** – That which cannot be called back, that which cannot be changed or withdrawn अटल
  - **Antidote** – A medicine to cure the effect of poison प्रतिकारक
24. (B) 'with' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'adjacent' के साथ Preposition 'to' का प्रयोग होता है।
- 'to' will be used instead of 'with' because the preposition 'to' is used with 'adjacent'.
25. (B) 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि दो Subjects 'with, along with, together with' से जुड़े हों, तो Verb पहले Subject के अनुसार होता है; जैसे-
- i. The Minister along with his followers is coming here.
- 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because if two Subjects are joined by 'with, along with, together with', then Verb follows according to the first Subject; As-
  - The Minister along with his followers is coming here.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

