

Finding funds: On COP28 and the 'loss and damage' fund

The 'loss and damage' fund is finally online but more needs to be done

A healthy loss and damage (L&D) **fund**, a three-**decade**-old demand, **is** a fundamental expression of climate justice. The L&D fund is a **corpus** of money and technologies that will be **replenished** by developed countries and used by the rest to respond to the more unavoidable effects of climate change. On the first day of the COP28 climate talks **under way** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), representatives of the member-states agreed to **operationalise** the L&D fund. The announcement was **dearly** won: at the end of the COP27 talks in Egypt last year, member-states agreed to launch such a fund, **thanks** largely **to** the **steadfast** efforts of the G-77 **bloc** of countries plus China, led by Pakistan. **Four meetings** of the Transitional Committee (TC) **were** to follow to determine how its money would be **disbursed**. But the **issues** in the TC-4 meeting, which **spilled over** into an **ad hoc** TC-5 meeting as well, **highlight** how the newly operationalised fund, while **signalling optimism** at COP28 and a **diplomatic** victory for its Emirati president, has crucial issues.

First, it will be **hosted** by the World Bank for an **interim** period of four years and will be **overseen** by an independent secretariat. The Bank is expected to charge a significant **overhead fee**. Developing countries **resisted** this **proposition** at first before **yielding** at the TC-5 meeting, in exchange for some **concessions**. Second, while some countries have committed amounts to the fund — from \$10 million by Japan to \$100 million each by Germany and the UAE — whether they will be periodically replenished is not clear. The committed amounts are also insufficient, totalling \$450 million (for now) against an actual demand of several billion dollars. This **shortfall**, though it is **premature** to **deem** it so, **comes against the backdrop of** developed countries missing their 2020 **deadline** to **mobilise** a promised \$100 billion in climate finance and **managing to** deliver only \$89.6 billion in 2021. Next, the contributions are voluntary even as every country has been invited to contribute. Finally, the World Bank will have to **meet** some conditions on managing the fund, including a degree of **transparency** it has not **brooked** so far, and submit a report to the Parties to the Paris Agreement. If its **stewardship** is determined to be unsuitable, the fund can 'exit' the World Bank. The L&D fund's contents need to be easily accessible to those who need it most, in timely fashion, **sans pedantic bureaucratic** hurdles, and in sufficient quantities. **As things stand**, there is little guarantee that any of these requirements will be met. While the L&D fund is finally online, a lot more needs to be done. [\[Practice exercise\]](#)

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

Vocabulary

1. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten year दशक
2. **Corpus** (noun) – the total amount of money in a fund, investment, or financial institution. संग्रह
3. **Replenish** (verb) – Refill, restore, renew, reload, restock, फिर से भरना
4. **Under way** (phrase) – In progress, ongoing, happening, occurring, afoot, चल रहा है
5. **Operationalise** (verb) – Implement, activate, execute, apply, put into action, क्रियान्वित करना
6. **Dearly** (adverb) – very much, greatly, affectionately, fondly, बहुमूल्यता से
7. **Thanks to** (phrase) – Due to, because of, owing to, as a result of, in view of, की वजह से
8. **Steadfast** (adjective) – Firm, unswerving, unwavering, loyal, dedicated, दृढ़निश्चयी
9. **Bloc** (noun) – Coalition, alliance, group, faction, league, गुट
10. **Disburse** (verb) – Pay out, expend, spend, distribute, allocate, वितरित करना
11. **Spill over** (phrasal verb) – (of a bad situation) reach a point at which it can no longer be controlled or contained. (एक बुरी स्थिति का) फैल जाना, पहुँचना
12. **Ad hoc** (noun) – Temporary, provisional, improvised, impromptu, makeshift, अस्थायी
13. **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, underscore, spotlight, accentuate, feature, प्रमुखता से दिखाना
14. **Signal** (verb) – Indicate, gesture, motion, beckon, signify, संकेत करना
15. **Optimism** (noun) – Hopefulness, positivity, sanguinity, buoyancy, confidence, आशावाद
16. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Tactful, politic, sensitive, strategic, shrewd, कूटनीतिक
17. **Host** (verb) – Accommodate, entertain, hold, present, organize, मेजबानी करना
18. **Interim** (adjective) – Temporary, provisional, interim, transitional, acting, अंतरिम
19. **Oversee** (verb) – Supervise, manage, monitor, administer, oversee, देखरेख करना
20. **Overhead fee** (noun) – Administrative cost, operating expense, indirect charge, overhead, expense, परिचालन शुल्क
21. **Resist** (verb) – Oppose, withstand, counter, defy, fight against, विरोध करना
22. **Proposition** (noun) – Proposal, offer, suggestion, idea, plan, प्रस्ताव

23. **Yield** (verb) – Surrender, give in, capitulate, acquiesce, concede, समर्पण करना
24. **Concession** (noun) – Compromise, allowance, grant, adjustment, accommodation, रियायत
25. **Premature** (adjective) – Early, untimely, precocious, hasty, rash, असमय
26. **Deem** (verb) – Consider, regard, believe, judge, view, मानना
27. **Come against the backdrop of** (phrase) – Occur in the context of, arise against, develop in light of, emerge amidst, transpire following, के संदर्भ में होना
28. **Deadline** (noun) – Time limit, due date, cutoff, target date, end date, समय सीमा
29. **Mobilise** (verb) – Organize, rally, marshal, assemble, gather, जुटाना
30. **Manage to** (verb) – Succeed in, achieve, accomplish, pull off, bring off, सफल होना
31. **Meet** (verb) – Fulfill, satisfy, answer, comply with, accord with, पूरा करना
32. **Transparency** (noun) – Clarity, openness, lucidity, straightforwardness, candor, पारदर्शिता
33. **Brook** (verb) – Tolerate, endure, bear, stand, suffer, बर्दाश्त करना
34. **Stewardship** (noun) – Management, guardianship, administration, care, oversight, प्रबंधन
35. **Sans** (preposition) – Without, lacking, devoid of, minus, absent, बिना
36. **Pedantic** (adjective) – Scholarly, academic, bookish, precise, meticulous, पांडित्यपूर्ण
37. **Bureaucratic** (adjective) – Official, administrative, governmental, procedural, red-tape, नौकरशाही
38. **As things stand** (phrase) – Currently, as it is, in the current situation, presently, as of now, वर्तमान परिस्थिति में

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Fundamental Expression of Climate Justice:** The 'loss and damage' (L&D) fund represents a crucial step towards climate justice, a demand that has been made for three decades.
2. **Purpose of the Fund:** The L&D fund consists of money and technologies aimed to assist countries in responding to the unavoidable effects of climate change.
3. **Operationalization at COP28:** During the COP28 climate talks in the United Arab Emirates, member-states agreed to operationalize the L&D fund.
4. **Background:** The fund's establishment stems from persistent efforts by the G-77 bloc and China, especially led by Pakistan, culminating in an agreement at COP27 in Egypt.
5. **Transitional Committee's Role:** Four meetings of the Transitional Committee (TC) were planned to decide the fund's disbursement methods, but issues arose, leading to an additional ad hoc TC-5 meeting.
6. **World Bank's Interim Host Role:** The fund will be hosted by the World Bank for four years under an independent secretariat, with the Bank expected to charge a significant overhead fee.
7. **Developing Countries' Compromise:** Developing countries initially resisted the World Bank's role but later agreed, in exchange for certain concessions.
8. **Uncertainty of Replenishment:** Commitments to the fund vary (from \$10 million by Japan to \$100 million by Germany and the UAE), totaling \$450 million. However, it's unclear if these funds will be periodically replenished and are currently insufficient against the demand of several billion dollars.
9. **Missed 2020 Deadline:** Developed countries missed the 2020 deadline to mobilize a promised \$100 billion in climate finance, only delivering \$89.6 billion in 2021.
10. **Voluntary Contributions:** Contributions to the fund are voluntary, with all countries invited to contribute.
11. **World Bank's Conditions:** The World Bank must adhere to specific conditions for managing the fund, including maintaining transparency.
12. **Option to Exit World Bank:** If the World Bank's stewardship is deemed unsuitable, the fund can 'exit' the Bank.
13. **Accessibility and Efficiency:** The fund must be easily accessible, without bureaucratic hurdles, and provided in sufficient quantities to those who need it most.
14. **Unmet Requirements:** Currently, there are no guarantees that the fund will meet its intended accessibility, efficiency, and sufficiency goals.
15. **Further Action Needed:** Despite the fund being operational, much more work is needed to ensure its effectiveness and adequacy in addressing climate change impacts.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- 1. What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Praise
- 2. What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The success of international diplomacy
 - B. The inadequacies in the implementation of the 'loss and damage' fund
 - C. The role of the World Bank in global economics
 - D. Climate change denial
- 3. Based on the passage, which of the following best describes the purpose of the 'loss and damage' (L&D) fund established at COP28?**
 - A. To support developed countries in implementing renewable energy solutions.
 - B. To serve as a financial and technological resource replenished by developed countries to help others respond to climate change effects.
 - C. To fund climate change research exclusively in the United Arab Emirates.
 - D. To provide emergency relief funds for natural disasters globally.
- 4. What can be inferred about the process of establishing the L&D fund based on the passage?**
 - A. It was a quick and straightforward process with unanimous support.
 - B. It faced challenges and required persistent efforts, particularly by the G-77 bloc of countries plus China.
 - C. It was solely initiated and managed by the United Arab Emirates.
 - D. The fund was established without any formal meetings or discussions.
- 5. What is the initial duration for which the World Bank is expected to host the 'loss and damage' fund?**
 - A. Two years
 - B. Four years
 - C. Six years
 - D. Eight years
- 6. Considering the conditions outlined in the passage, which of the following statements is true regarding the 'loss and damage' fund?**
 - A. Developed countries have already met their 2020 deadline for climate finance.
 - B. The World Bank has agreed to manage the fund without charging any overhead fee.
 - C. The contributions to the fund are mandatory for every country.
 - D. The World Bank must adhere to certain conditions including transparency while managing the fund.
- 7. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A. One has to face it, plan and manage it effectively so that the post-retirement life can remain meaningful, purposeful and enjoyable.

- Q. Understandably, it comes with uncertainties and anxieties as it changes the status quo and takes one out of the comfort zone.
- R. If there is anything permanent in this world, it is “change”. Retirement from work is such an inevitability and one of the most important transitions in the life of all employees.
- S. With the average life expectancy in India going beyond 70, management of retirement life has become much more important now.
- A. RSPQ
B. QPRS
C. QRPS
D. RQPS
8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. My father lifted me on his shoulders so that I could have a clear view. I could see him in a slow-moving open car standing and waving to the crowds.
- B. My father took me to Sector 19, off Madhya Marg, as our first Prime Minister was visiting Chandigarh, a city still in its adolescence, if not infancy.
- C. The handle bar in his car was full of marigold garlands which he was throwing gradually one after another towards the crowd gathered along the Marg.
- D. I was hardly three years old. As the pilot car passed by, the crowd got excited and started chanting and shouting slogans.
- A. BDAC
B. CABD
C. BCAD
D. ABCD
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Devil’s advocate
- A. One who takes an opposing position for the sake of argument
B. One who
C. presents very logical arguments
D. One who is very precise and accurate
E. One who never argues
10. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the following sentence.
The doctor assured the patient that the tumour was benign and could be easily removed
- A. Favourable
B. Malignant
C. Sterile
D. Kind
11. **Select the most appropriate option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
The director hired the new employee after the interview.
- A. The new employee will be hired by the director after the interview.
B. The new employee was hired by the director after the interview.
C. The new employee is being hired by the director after the interview.

- D. The new employee hired by the director after the interview
12. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- A. That the only true individual
B. Is the holy man
C. It has frequently been claimed
D. Which the traditional society of India tolerates
- A. D, C, A, B
B. C, A, D, B
C. A, B, D, C
D. C, D, A, B
13. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word from the given sentence.**
Drunkenness, riot and brawling were the order, there, every night
- A. Riot
B. Drunkenness
C. Order
D. Brawling
14. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**
Can you please make sure that all the guest are gathered on the stage before the performance begins?
- A. guest is gathered on
B. guests are gathered in
C. guests are gathered on
D. guests is gathered by
15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Spill the beans
- A. Open the flow of the stopped water
B. Liberate the controlled emotions
C. Distribute food grains freely
D. Disclose the secrets accidentally
16. **Select the most appropriate option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined segment in the following sentence.**
The king's coronation ceremony was a grand affair, with all the nobles and dignitaries dressed in their finest insignia of royalty.
- A. ornaments
B. regalia
C. regals
D. Spectres
17. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. The post-COVID period has caused many asymptomatic diseases.

- B. Though it cannot be believed for sure; the change in social life may be a major cause.
C. These are people who suffered infection once or never at all.
D. Some propose that survival post infection has changed the mindset of
- A. B, D, C, A
B. B, D, A, C
C. A, C, D, B
D. A, C, B, D
18. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**
She was completely baffled by his strange behaviour.
- A. confused
B. unfazed
C. relieved
D. Angered
19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
The speech of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam influences young minds.
- A. Young minds get influenced by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
B. Young minds were influenced by the speech of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
C. Young minds are influenced by the speech of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
D. The speech of Dr. APJ Adul Kalam is very influencing.
20. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
One who possesses outstanding technical ability in a particular art or field
- A. Virtuuous
B. Virtuoso
C. Gourmand
D. Amateur

Comprehension:

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Following in the footsteps of France, Italy has _____1_____ a new tax to be _____2_____ on large tech companies, a move that is likely to put more strain on the country's relations with the USA. The Italian parliament has approved a 3% digital tax on some digital revenue of technology companies that make over \$831 million in global revenue, including at least \$6 million in Italy. The tax _____3_____ similar to the one France implemented earlier this year, which has attracted _____4_____ criticism from the USA. According to a report in The Epoch Times, dozens of countries are working on proposals to change corporate tax schemes to _____5_____ money from tech firms that have users across the world, such as Facebook and Google's parent company alphabet.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. accepted
B. declined
C. approved
D. Favoured

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. crossed
 - B. levied
 - C. placed
 - D. Exercised
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. were
 - D. Have
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. severe
 - B. mild
 - C. critical
 - D. Firm
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. take
 - B. remove
 - C. seize
 - D. capture

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) Critical**

The tone of the passage is critical. This is evident from the way the author discusses the various challenges and shortcomings associated with the 'loss and damage' fund. The passage highlights issues like the insufficient funding, the voluntary nature of contributions, the lack of transparency, and bureaucratic hurdles, all of which indicate a tone of criticism towards the current state and management of the fund.

2. **B) The inadequacies in the implementation of the 'loss and damage' fund**

The main theme of the passage is the inadequacies in the implementation of the 'loss and damage' fund. The passage extensively discusses various issues and concerns surrounding the fund, such as the interim management by the World Bank, the insufficiency of committed funds, the voluntary nature of contributions, and the lack of guarantees for meeting the needs of those affected by climate change. This focus on the challenges and shortcomings in implementing the fund makes it the central theme of the passage.

3. **B) To serve as a financial and technological resource replenished by developed countries to help others respond to climate change effects.**

The passage describes the L&D fund as a corpus of money and technologies that will be replenished by developed countries and used by the rest to respond to the more unavoidable effects of climate change. This description aligns with option B, which emphasizes the fund's role in aiding countries to deal with climate change impacts, primarily through financial and technological support from developed nations.

4. **B) It faced challenges and required persistent efforts, particularly by the G-77 bloc of countries plus China.**

The passage indicates that the establishment of the L&D fund was not straightforward. It highlights that the fund was a result of a three-decade-old demand and was launched following persistent efforts by the G-77 bloc of countries plus China, led by Pakistan. This suggests that the process involved challenges and required concerted efforts over time, particularly from the mentioned group of countries.

5. **B) Four years**

The passage specifies that the World Bank will host the fund for an interim period of four years.

6. **D) The World Bank must adhere to certain conditions including transparency while managing the fund.**

This question assesses the understanding of the true conditions mentioned in the passage regarding the management of the fund. The passage notes that the World Bank will have to meet certain conditions, including transparency, and that contributions are voluntary.

7. **D) RQPS**

R: This sentence introduces the main topic: change, specifically focusing on retirement as a significant change. It sets the stage for further discussion about retirement, making it a suitable opening sentence.

Q: This sentence naturally follows R, as it elaborates on the "change" mentioned in R, discussing the uncertainties and anxieties associated with retirement. The pronoun "it" in Q refers back to the concept of retirement introduced in R, creating a clear noun-pronoun relationship

P: After establishing the concept of retirement and its associated challenges in R and Q, P presents a solution or a way to deal with these challenges.

S: S provides additional information that emphasizes the importance of the discussion in the previous sentences. It introduces a new aspect (life expectancy) that supports the need for effective retirement planning mentioned in P.

8. **A) BDAC**

B: This sentence introduces the scenario and setting. It explains why the narrator (a child) and their father were at a particular place. There's no reference to prior events or situations, making it a good starting point.

D: This sentence provides additional context about the narrator's age and describes the immediate reaction of the crowd as the event starts, which logically follows the introduction of the event in sentence B.

A: After the initial excitement described in sentence D, sentence A details a specific action taken by the narrator's father (lifting the child for a better view), which is a natural progression in the sequence of events. The reference to "him" (presumably the Prime Minister) ties back to the event introduced in B and further described in D.

C: Finally, sentence C gives a specific detail about the Prime Minister's actions during the event. It builds upon the visual established in sentence A (the narrator seeing the Prime Minister) and adds more detail to the scene.

9. A) **Devil's advocate** (idiom) – One who takes an opposing position for the sake of argument

विवाद के लिए विपरीत स्थिति लेने वाला

10. B) **Benign** (adjective) – Gentle, kind, not harmful, mild, non-threatening. **सजीव**

Antonym: **Malignant** (adjective) – Harmful, dangerous, aggressive, typically relating to a cancer that is likely to spread. **दुष्ट**

- **Favourable** (adjective) – Supporting, approving, beneficial, positive. **अनुकूल**

- **Sterile** (adjective) – Free from bacteria or other living microorganisms; barren, not fertile. **बाँझ**
 - **Kind** (adjective) – Considerate, generous, gentle, caring. **दयालु**
11. B) The new employee was hired by the director after the interview.
12. B) **C, A, D, B**
It has frequently been claimed That the only true individual Which the traditional society of India tolerates Is the holy man
13. B) **'Drunkness'** को **'Drunkness'** में बदलना होगा क्योंकि सही spelling **'Drunkness'** है।
- **'Drunkness'** will be changed to **'Drunkness'** because the correct spelling is **'Drunkness'**.
14. C) **'all the guest'** के बदले **'guests are gathered on'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि **'guest'** संख्या में plural होना चाहिए और **'on the stage'** सही preposition है।
- **'guests are gathered on'** will be used instead of **'all the guest'** because **'guest'** should be in plural form and **'on the stage'** is the correct preposition.
15. D) **Spill the beans** (idiom) – Disclose the secrets accidentally रहस्य अनजाने में प्रकट कर देना।
16. B) **insignia of royalty'** के बदले **'regalia'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि **'regalia'** राजसी मुद्रा या प्रतीक के विशेष संकेतों के लिए एक शब्द है जिसे राजा या रानी द्वारा पहने जाने वाले विशेष वस्त्र या आभूषण के रूप में उपयोग किया जाता है।
- **regalia'** will be used instead of **'insignia of royalty'** because **'regalia'** is a term for the emblems or symbols of royalty, particularly the clothes or ornaments worn by a king or queen
17. C) **A, C, D, B**
The post-COVID period has caused many asymptomatic diseases. A, C, D, B Some propose that survival post infection has changed the mindset of Though it cannot be believed for sure; the change in social life may be a major cause
18. A) **Baffled** (adjective) – Perplexed, confused, bewildered, puzzled. **समझ में न आनेवाला**
Synonym: Confused (adjective) – Unable to think clearly, bewildered, disoriented, muddled. **भ्रमित**
- **Unfazed** (adjective) – Not disconcerted or perturbed, calm, unruffled. **अचल**
 - **Relieved** (adjective) – Feeling happy because something unpleasant has stopped or has not happened, reassured, thankful. **राहत**
 - **Angered** (verb, past tense) – Make someone angry; provoke. **गुस्सा**
19. C) Young minds are influenced by the speech of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

20. B) **Virtuoso** (noun) – One who possesses outstanding technical ability in a particular art or field
कला या किसी विशेष क्षेत्र में प्रमुख तकनीकी क्षमता वाला व्यक्ति

- **Virtuous** (adjective) – Having or showing high moral standards **सदाचारी**
- **Gourmand** (noun) – A person who is fond of good eating, often indiscriminately and to excess **भोजन प्रेमी**
- **Amateur** (noun) – A person who engages in a pursuit, especially a sport, on an unpaid basis; not a professional **शौकिया**

21. C) '**Approved**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि उस पाराग्राफ में बताया गया है कि "The Italian parliament has approved a 3% digital tax...", जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि इटली ने नई टैक्स को स्वीकृति दी है। 'Accepted' का अर्थ होता है स्वीकार करना, 'Declined' का अर्थ होता है अस्वीकार करना, और 'Favoured' का अर्थ होता है पसंद करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Approved**' should be used because the passage mentions "The Italian parliament has approved a 3% digital tax...", indicating that Italy has given approval for the new tax. 'Accepted' means to agree to, 'Declined' means to refuse, and 'Favoured' means to prefer, which don't fit in this context.

22. B) '**Levied**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "levied" का अर्थ होता है किसी पर कर लगाना। जबकि 'Crossed' का अर्थ है पारित करना, 'Placed' का अर्थ है रखना, और 'Exercised' का अर्थ है प्रयास या अभ्यास करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Levied**' should be used because it means to impose a tax or fee on something or someone. Whereas, 'Crossed' means to pass or move over, 'Placed' means to put in a particular position, and 'Exercised' implies effort or practice, which don't fit in this context.

23. B) '**Is**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "is" यहाँ पर सिंगुलर प्रतिस्थान (Italy's digital tax) के संदर्भ में है, जो फ्रांस द्वारा पहले लागू किए गए कर के समान है। 'Are' प्लुरल संघर्भ में होता है, 'Were' भूतकाल में प्रयुक्त होता है, और 'Have' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

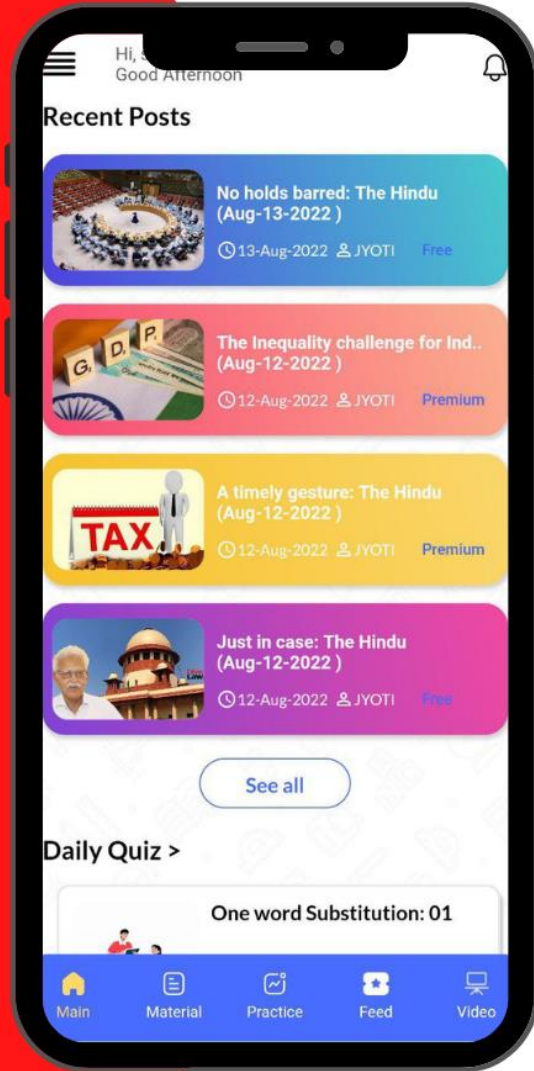
- '**Is**' should be used because it refers to the singular subject (Italy's digital tax) that is similar to the tax implemented by France. 'Are' is used in plural context, 'Were' is used in the past tense, and 'Have' doesn't fit in this context.

24. A) '**Severe**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "severe" का अर्थ होता है गंभीर या कठोर, जो यहाँ अमेरिका की आलोचना के प्रति उपयुक्त है। 'Mild' का अर्थ है मामूली, 'Critical' का अर्थ है आलोचनात्मक, और 'Firm' का अर्थ है दृढ़, जो इस संदर्भ में पूरी तरह से उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- **'Severe'** should be used because it means serious or harsh, which is appropriate here to describe the criticism from the USA. Whereas, 'Mild' means moderate, 'Critical' means analytical, and 'Firm' means steadfast, which are not entirely appropriate in this context.

25. D) **'Capture'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "capture" का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थिति या राशि को पूरी तरह से अपने अधिकार में लेना। इस संदर्भ में, कॉर्पोरेट टैक्स स्कीम को बदल कर टेक कंपनियों से पैसे 'capture' करना है। 'Take' का अर्थ है लेना, 'Remove' का अर्थ है हटाना, और 'Seize' का अर्थ है ज़ब्त कर लेना, जो इस संदर्भ में पूरी तरह से उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- **'Capture'** should be used because it means to fully secure a situation or amount under one's control. In this context, the idea is to change corporate tax schemes to 'capture' money from tech firms. 'Take' means to acquire, 'Remove' means to eliminate, and 'Seize' implies confiscation, which don't fully fit in this context.



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