

## Honest reckoning: On the reality behind the commitment to renewable energy

Major world **economies** seem unwilling to move away from **fossil fuel**

**The boundary wall** enclosing discussions around global climate **is** 1.5°C, or the average increase in global temperatures since pre-industrial times. Now that 1°C is crossed, all the **wrangling under way** at the climate **summit** in Dubai **is** to **cap** the half-degree rise. Global **pledges** to cut emissions are insufficient to achieve this. Current estimates are that to **limit** warming to 1.5°C, the world requires three times more **renewable energy** capacity by 2030, or at least 11,000 GW. **That** there is wide global **consensus** on the need for this tripling **was** first formally **articulated** in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration at the G-20 summit in Delhi in September. **In the run-up to** the Dubai summit, it was **perceived** that this would be widely **endorsed** by the larger group of about 190 countries **signatory** to the UN convention on climate. It **turns out** that, so far, 118 countries have endorsed the pledge and two major countries, i.e., India and China, have **so far abstained** from signing. The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, while still a draft text, says that **in their pursuit of** tripling renewable energy capacity, signatories should also commit to "...**phase down** of **unabated** coal power, **in particular** ending the continued investment in unabated new coal-fired power plants". This is a major red line for India.

While India has positioned itself as a **champion** for renewable energy — its 2030 targets as articulated in its formal, nationally determined contributions (NDC) speak of tripling renewable energy capacity to 500 GW from the current 170 GW — it has **reiterated** several times that it could not be forced to **give up** certain fuels. Coal-fired plants are responsible for nearly 70% of India's greenhouse gas emissions. Developed **countries** that have made commitments to give up coal often **have** other large, fossil-fuel resources as back-up. The United States joined 56 other countries at Dubai in a commitment to completely **eschew** coal for its energy use, by 2035. However the U.S. only draws about 20% of its energy from coal and at least 55% from oil and gas, with plans to actually produce more of it in 2030 than at present. The **paradox** of the world's major economies' commitment to renewable energy **is** that it is not, as of now, actively **geared** to replace fossil fuel. Till there is an honest commitment to actually replace existing and future fossil capacity with clean energy, pledges and declarations are worth little more than the paper they are **drafted** on. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Reckoning** (noun) - Calculation, estimation, computation, tally, assessment गणना
2. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ
3. **Fossil fuel** (noun) - Non-renewable energy sources like coal, oil, and natural gas जीवाश्म ईंधन
4. **Wrangling** (noun) - Dispute, argument, disagreement, debate, quarrel विवाद
5. **Under way** (adjective) - In progress, ongoing, happening, in operation, underway चल रहा है
6. **Summit** (noun) - Conference, meeting, assembly, gathering, conclave शिखर सम्मेलन
7. **Cap** (verb) - Limit, restrict, confine, set a limit, put a ceiling on सीमा तय करना
8. **Pledge** (noun) - Promise, commitment, vow, oath, guarantee प्रतिज्ञा
9. **Limit** (verb) - Restrict, confine, cap, set limits to, bound सीमित करना
10. **Renewable energy** (noun) - Sustainable energy, green energy, alternative energy, clean energy, eco-friendly energy नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा
11. **Consensus** (noun) - Agreement, unanimity, accord, general agreement, concord सहमति
12. **Articulate** (verb) - Express, state, enunciate, voice, pronounce स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करना
13. **In the run-up to** (phrase) - In the period before, leading up to, preceding, before, prior to उसके पहले
14. **Perceived** (adjective) - Recognized, understood, comprehended, grasped, discerned समझा गया
15. **Endorse** (verb) - Support, approve, back, sanction, ratify समर्थन करना
16. **Signatory** (noun) - Participant, signee, signer, subscriber, endorser हस्ताक्षरकर्ता
17. **Turn out** (phrasal verb) - Result, end up, emerge, prove to be, transpire निकलना
18. **So far** (phrasal verb) - Up to now, to date, until now, thus far, hitherto अब तक
19. **Abstain** (verb) - Refrain, desist, hold back, forgo, avoid परहेज करना
20. **In their pursuit of** (phrase) - in order to achieve (something) की चाह में
21. **Phase down** (phrasal verb) - Gradually reduce, decrease, scale down, diminish, lessen धीरे-धीरे कम करना
22. **Unabated** (adjective) - Continuous, unrelenting, persistent, ceaseless, unbroken निरंतर

23. **In particular** (phrase) - Specifically, especially, notably, particularly, expressly विशेष रूप से
24. **Champion** (noun) - Advocate, proponent, supporter, promoter, defender समर्थक
25. **Reiterate** (verb) - Repeat, restate, reemphasize, reassert, reaffirm दोहराना
26. **Give up** (phrasal verb) - Quit, abandon, relinquish, forgo, surrender त्यागना
27. **Eschew** (verb) - Avoid, abstain from, steer clear of, shun, forgo त्यागना
28. **Paradox** (noun) - Contradiction, anomaly, inconsistency, conundrum, enigma विरोधाभास
29. **Gear** (to) (verb) - prepare, adjust, or equip for a particular purpose or need. तैयार होना
30. **Draft** (verb) - Prepare, sketch, outline, formulate, compose तैयार करना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Global discussions focus on limiting average global temperature increase to 1.5°C since pre-industrial times.
2. With a 1°C rise already crossed, the goal is to cap the remaining half-degree increase.
3. Current global pledges to cut emissions are inadequate for achieving the 1.5°C target.
4. To limit warming to 1.5°C, the world needs to triple renewable energy capacity to at least 11,000 GW by 2030.
5. The need for this tripling was formally recognized in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration at the G-20 summit.
6. Ahead of the Dubai summit, it was expected that about 190 countries would endorse this goal.
7. So far, 118 countries have endorsed the pledge, but India and China have abstained.
8. The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge proposes phasing out coal power and ending investment in new coal-fired plants.
9. India, a proponent of renewable energy, has set a target of 500 GW by 2030 but resists giving up coal.
10. Coal-fired plants account for nearly 70% of India's greenhouse gas emissions.
11. Developed countries committing to abandon coal often have alternative fossil fuel resources.
12. The U.S. plans to completely stop using coal by 2035, but heavily relies on oil and gas.
13. Major world economies' commitment to renewable energy does not actively aim to replace fossil fuels.
14. Pledges to renewable energy are inadequate without a real commitment to replace fossil fuel capacity with clean energy.
15. Without genuine action, such pledges are of little value beyond their written declarations.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- 1. What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Skeptical
  - C. Indifferent
  - D. Enthusiastic
- 2. What could be an appropriate title for this passage?**
  - A. "The Promising Future of Renewable Energy"
  - B. "Global Consensus on Climate Change"
  - C. "The Paradox of Renewable Energy Commitments"
  - D. "The Success of the Dubai Climate Summit"
- 3. What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The technical challenges of renewable energy
  - B. The economic impact of climate change
  - C. The paradoxical nature of global climate commitments
  - D. The success stories of renewable energy implementation
- 4. What can be inferred about the global approach to climate change based on the passage?**
  - A. Most countries are rapidly transitioning to renewable energy sources
  - B. There is a unanimous agreement on completely abandoning fossil fuels
  - C. The commitment to renewable energy is strong but implementation is inconsistent
  - D. Renewable energy has successfully replaced fossil fuels in major economies
- 5. Which of the following statements is NOT true based on the passage?**
  - A. The world needs to triple its renewable energy capacity by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C
  - B. All countries at the climate summit in Dubai agreed to phase down unabated coal power
  - C. India has plans to increase its renewable energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030
  - D. The U.S. derives most of its energy from coal
- 6. Select the correct homonym from the given options to fill in the blank.**

I saw a \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky.

  - A. plane
  - B. plain
  - C. plan
  - D. plant
- 7. For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**

S1: A father wanted to inculcate a sense of responsibility in his careless son.  
S4: He resolved to change his behaviour and soon the nails started coming out, till there were none left.

**P.** So he told his son that for every careless act of his he would hammer a nail into a wooden pillar in their house, and for every positive act he would pull out one nail.

- Q. For many of the homebuyers, across locations the delay has extended to almost six years or more.
- R. In the absence of a regulator and with no rules in place, the builder-buyer battle appeared one-sided.
- S. The boy saw that the pillar was getting crowded with nails and realised his mistake.
- A. P and S  
B. Q and R  
C. Q and S  
D. P and Q
8. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer**  
Fortunately, he passed the exams / with dint of / sheer hard work and diligence.
- A. No error  
B. with dint of  
C. Fortunately, he passed the exams  
D. sheer hard work and diligence
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
All human beings must learn to live in \_\_\_\_\_ with nature.
- A. Kindness  
B. Pleasure  
C. Admiration  
D. Harmony
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**  
After / a long and fun-filled day, / the children / slept themselves peacefully.
- A. a long and fun-filled day  
B. slept themselves peacefully  
C. the children  
D. After
11. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Medieval  
B. Measure  
C. Magazine  
D. Machenic
12. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**  
"Why is everybody leaving so early today?" said the manager.
- A. The manager asked why was everybody leaving so early that day.  
B. The manager asked why everybody left so early that day.  
C. The manager asked why everybody was leaving so early that day.  
D. The manager asked why everybody was leaving so early today.

13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice.**

It is known by everyone that the tournament will be won by us.

- A. It is known to everyone that we are going to win the tournament.
- B. It is known that the tournament is going to be won by us.
- C. Everyone knows that we will win the tournament.
- D. Everyone knows that the tournament was won by us.

14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**

How were they managing the school for one year without a Principal?

- A. How was the Principal managed for one year without a School?
- B. How was the school managed for one year without a Principal?
- C. How was the Principal being managed for one year without a School?
- D. How was the school being managed for one year without a Principal?

15. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**

You must employ additional hands in complete the project in time.

- A. in completing the project in time
- B. for completing the project of time
- C. No substitution required
- D. to complete the project on time

16. **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. And taking this village lad into their midst was terribly upsetting.
  - B. She was by no means pleased with this unnecessary addition to her family.
  - C. When he reached Calcutta, Phatik met his aunt for the first time.
  - D. She found her own three boys quite enough to manage without taking in anyone else.
- A. CBDA
  - B. BCDA
  - C. BCAD
  - D. CADB

17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

There was absolute pandemonium in the classroom

- A. Turbulence
- B. Harmony
- C. Excitement
- D. Uproar

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank**

If your actions are \_\_\_\_\_ what you say, no one is going to believe you.

- A. Contrary for
- B. Contrary with
- C. Contrary to
- D. Contrary at

19. 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. After around 20 minutes of the crash, the tanker caught fire and exploded.
  - B. On Saturday, an oil tanker in Tanzania lost control and overturned on a busy road.
  - C. Around 150 people gathered near the tanker and some of them tried to siphon away some fuel.
  - D. At least 61 people died and 70 more were injured.
- A. DCAB
  - B. BCAD
  - C. DBAC
  - D. BACD
20. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.
- The commander said, "Keep marching till you reach the border."
- A. The commander ordered his men to keep marching till they reached the border.
  - B. The commander requested the men keep marching till they reach the border.
  - C. The commander said the men should keep marching till they reach the border.
  - D. The commander said to his men they should keep marching till you reach the border.
21. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words
- An office for which high salary is paid for little or no work or responsibility
- A. Death rattle
  - B. Ostracize
  - C. Sinecure
  - D. Credential
22. Identify the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word in the given sentence.
- Accidentally committing a chargable offense, he definitely felt the weight of his conscience.
- A. Definitely
  - B. Accidentally
  - C. Conscience
  - D. Chargable
23. Replace the underlined word with its synonym to make the sentence more meaningful.
- The professor provided ample evidence to support his argument.
- A. Insufficient
  - B. Meager
  - C. Abundant
  - D. Scarce
24. Select the appropriate idiom that can replace the underlined phrase in the following sentence
- In order to generate enough revenue, they needed to sell quickly before the market shifted.
- A. Sell like hot cakes
  - B. Be In the same boat
  - C. Be at their wits' end
  - D. Be full of beans



25. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.

- A. Due to the movie, tourists started coming to the beach there.
- B. Maya Bay in Thailand was in the media in 1999 when Hollywood arrived there to film 'The Beach'.
- C. One of the film's actors was Leonardo Di Caprio.
- D. As many as 4,000 visitors would arrive on boats every day.

- A. BCAD
- B. CBDA
- C. ABCD
- D. CABD

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanation

1. B) The tone of the passage is skeptical. This is evident in the way the author questions the efficacy and sincerity of the global commitments to renewable energy and highlights the paradoxes in the strategies of major economies like the U.S. and India. The passage casts doubt on whether these commitments will translate into significant action.
2. C) The title "The Paradox of Renewable Energy Commitments" aptly reflects the main content of the passage. It focuses on the contradictions and challenges in the commitments made by countries regarding renewable energy and the phasing out of fossil fuels, particularly coal, which is a major theme in the passage.
3. C) The main theme of the passage is the paradoxical nature of global climate commitments. This theme is highlighted through the discussion of various countries' commitments to renewable energy and the reality of their dependence on fossil fuels. The passage critically examines the gap between the pledges made by countries at international summits and the actual actions taken, particularly focusing on the continued reliance on coal and fossil fuels despite commitments to renewable energy.
4. C) The passage implies that while there is a strong global commitment to renewable energy, as seen in various pledges and declarations, the actual implementation of these commitments is inconsistent and paradoxical. This is evident from the examples of countries like the U.S. and India, where commitments to renewable energy exist alongside continued reliance on fossil fuels, particularly coal.
5. D) The passage indicates that the United States draws about 20% of its energy from coal, with a larger proportion coming from oil and gas. Therefore, the statement that the U.S. derives most of its energy from coal is not true according to the information provided in the passage.
6. A) The correct answer is A) plane. A plane refers to an aircraft or a flat surface, often associated with flying objects. In the given sentence, the speaker mentions seeing something in the sky, suggesting it is most likely an aircraft, making "plane" the appropriate choice.
7. A) P and S  
 The reason why the answer is A. P and S is because the sentences P and S logically follow S1 and precede S4, creating a coherent narrative about the father's method of teaching his son responsibility and the son's reaction to this method.
8. B) 'with dint of' के बदले 'by dint of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'by dint of' का अर्थ होता है 'by means of' के सहारे से !
9. D) **Harmony** (noun) – Concord, unity, agreement, coherence सामंजस्य
  - **Kindness** (noun) – Benevolence, generosity, compassion, goodwill दयामय कार्य

- **Pleasure** (noun) – Delight, enjoyment, gratification, satisfaction प्रसन्नता
  - **Admiration** (noun) – Esteem, respect, veneration, reverence प्रशंसा
10. B) 'Themselves' को हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'themselves का प्रयोग Superfluous (अनावश्यक) है! ध्यान रखे 'themselves' एक reflexive pronoun है जिसका अर्थ होता है "अपने आप को " या "खुद को" और य subject का ही बोध कराता है। अगर verb के बाद आनेवाला object जिसपर क्रिया का प्रभाव पड़ता है खुद subject ही है तो वहाँ पर reflexive का ही इस्तेमाल होना चाहिए। He cursed him for the failure. का अर्थ है कि subject (he) ने असफलता के लिए किसी और को कोसा। परंतु He cursed himself for the failure, का अर्थ है कि subject ने असफलता के लिए खुद को ही कोसा। The subject cursed the self for the failure
11. D) Machenic  
The Correct spelling of 'Machenic' is 'Mechanic' which means 'a skilled worker who repairs and maintains vehicle engines and other machinery.' मैकेनिक
12. C) The manager asked why everybody was leaving so early that day.
13. C) Everyone knows that we will win the tournament.
14. D) How was the school being managed for one year without a Principal?
15. D) 'to complete the project on time' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'employ something to do something' का अर्थ होता है 'to use something'
16. A) **CBDA**
- Sentence C should be the first sentence because it sets the scene and provides context: "When he reached Calcutta, Phatik met his aunt for the first time."
  - Sentence B comes next as it introduces the aunt's displeasure at Phatik's arrival: "She was by no means pleased with this unnecessary addition to her family."
  - Sentence D elaborates on the aunt's feelings, explaining why she didn't want to take in Phatik: "She found her own three boys quite enough to manage without taking in anyone else."
  - Finally, sentence A describes the overall impact of Phatik's arrival on the family: "And taking this village lad into their midst was terribly upsetting."
17. B) **Pandemonium** (noun) – Chaos, tumult, uproar, commotion हंगामा
- **Turbulence** (noun) – Disturbance, unrest, disorder, agitation अशांति
  - **Harmony** (noun) – Accord, consonance, balance, serenity शांति, सामंजस्य
  - **Excitement** (noun) – Thrill, exhilaration, enthusiasm, fervor उत्तेजना
  - **Uproar** (noun) – Commotion, racket, tumult कोलाहल
18. C) Preposition 'To' is used after 'Contrary' i.e. 'Contrary to' which means 'In contradiction of, against, in contrast to' - के विपरीत
19. B) **BCAD**

- Sentence B sets the context by explaining the main event - an oil tanker in Tanzania lost control and overturned on a busy road. This sentence serves as an appropriate starting point for the paragraph.
  - Sentence C follows by describing what happened next - around 150 people gathered near the tanker and some of them tried to siphon away some fuel. This sentence is a logical continuation of the story, as it explains the actions of people who were present at the scene.
  - Sentence A comes after C, as it explains the consequence of the crash and people trying to siphon fuel - the tanker caught fire and exploded around 20 minutes after the crash. This event is the turning point of the story.
  - Finally, sentence D wraps up the paragraph by providing the aftermath of the explosion - at least 61 people died and 70 more were injured.
20. A) The commander ordered his men to keep marching till they reached the border.
21. C) **Sinecure** – An office for which high salary is paid for little or no work or responsibility
- **Death rattle** – A gurgling sound that comes from the back of the throat of a dying person मृत्युपूर्व भरीए गले से निकली आवाज़
  - **Ostracize** – To turn out of society बहिष्कृत करना
  - **Credential** – A document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts प्रत्यक्ष पत्र
22. D) The spelling of Chargable is incorrect. The correct spelling is 'Chargeable' which means 'Punishable, criminal, serious, indictable' - दोषारोप्य
23. C) **Ample** (adjective) – Abundant, plentiful, generous, plentiful प्रचुर
- **Meager** (adjective) – Scant, sparse, inadequate, insufficient अल्प
  - **Abundant** (adjective) – Plentiful, copious, ample, bountiful भरपूर
  - **Scarce** (adjective) – Rare, limited, deficient, दुर्लभ, अपूर्ण
24. A) **Sell like hot cakes** (phrase) – to sell quickly जल्दी से बेचना
- **Be In the same boat** (phrase) – be in the same situation or facing the same difficulties as someone else एक ही जैसी मुशीबत में होना
  - **Be at their wits' end** (phrase) – a state of extreme frustration or confusion अत्यधिक हताशा की स्थिति
  - **Be full of beans** (phrase) – someone who is energetic, enthusiastic, and full of vitality. जीवन शक्ति से भरा हुआ।
25. A) **BCAD**
- B. Maya Bay in Thailand was in the media in 1999 when Hollywood arrived there to film 'The Beach'.
- This sentence introduces the topic, discussing the arrival of Hollywood in Maya Bay, Thailand, to film the movie "The Beach." This sets the context for the rest of the sentences.

C. One of the film's actors was Leonardo Di Caprio.

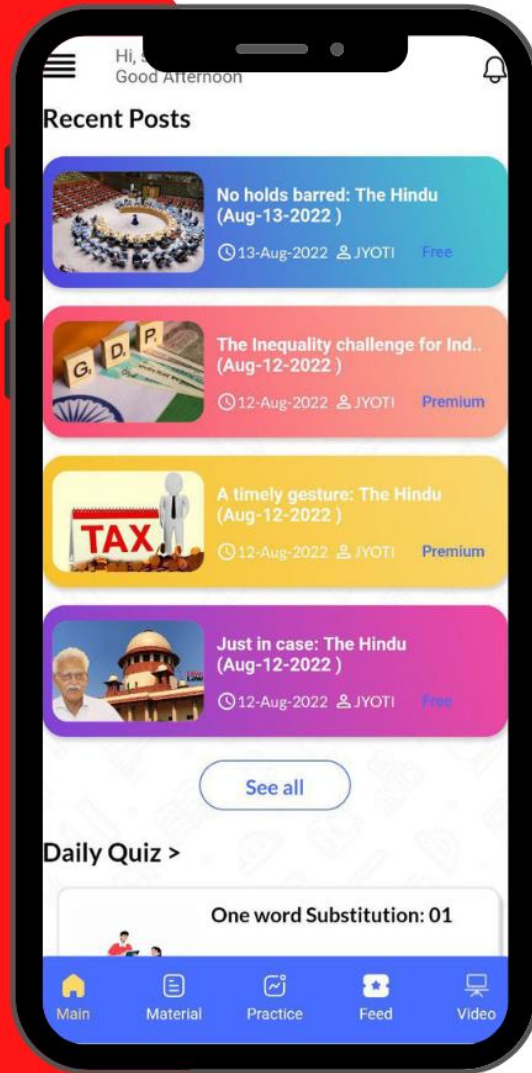
- This sentence provides information about one of the main actors in the movie. Although it does not directly connect to the other sentences, it is still relevant to the movie and helps to establish the connection between the movie and the increase in tourism.

A. Due to the movie, tourists started coming to the beach there.

- After learning about the movie and its actors, this sentence explains the impact of the film on tourism in the area. The movie's popularity led to an increase in the number of tourists visiting Maya Bay.

D. As many as 4,000 visitors would arrive on boats every day.

- This sentence provides evidence of the significant increase in tourist arrivals, further illustrating the movie's impact on tourism in the area.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**