

Express view: It's official — 2023 was the hottest year on record

For the better part of 2023, it was all but certain that the year would be the warmest on record. Beginning June, the average global temperature **registered** a record high every month. Now the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (CCS) has confirmed that in 2023, the planet was 1.48 degrees hotter than the period when the **large-scale** burning of **fossil fuels commenced**. **Scientists** at the CCS **have** warned that the 12-month **period** ending in January or February 2024 **could** be 1.5 degrees above the 1850s. This does not mean that the **threshold** set by the Paris Pact **is** likely to be **breached** soon — the **landmark** agreement **pertains to** averages over a much longer time. But the weather pattern this year **sets a worrying precedent**, especially because the average temperature in 2023 was 0.17 degrees higher than in 2016, the previous record year — in global warming terms, a very large increase.

By all accounts, renewable energy (RE) installations have increased **appreciably** in the past five years. However, this does not seem to have had a meaningful impact on the **decarbonisation** of the planet. CCS data show that **GHG concentrations** in the atmosphere **reached** a record level in 2023 — this along with **El Nino** has **driven** most of the warming. The **rate** of increase in methane emissions **was** lower than in the past three years. But carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increased at a rate similar to that observed in recent years, indicating that RE **deployment** is being **offset** by the use of unclean energy. **Blaming** the Third World and emerging **economies** for this increase in the emissions burden **would** be simplistic, and unfair. According to a study published in the journal Nature last year, historically, the combined **share** of emissions (1850-2021) of the US and the EU **is** more than 32 per cent. India's share, **in contrast**, is less than 3.5 per cent.

Of course, this does not mean that countries in the **Global South** do not have work to do. India's **remarkable growth** in total RE capacity in the last nine years —from 35 GW in 2014 to close to 180 GW — **means** that it is well placed to attain its goal of 500 GW RE capacity by 2030. However, like most parts of the world, India is yet to develop technology that enables storing of excess energy when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. In recent times, the US-China **rivalry** has **hobbled** RE supply chains. Last year, China **wielded** its national security rules to **impose** export bans on rare earth minerals — it **dominates** the world market in these commodities that are **critical** to the **green energy transition**. **In a somewhat similar vein**, the Biden administration has blocked US subsidies to Chinese battery manufacturers. In the last two months, the two countries have indicated their willingness to **overcome** tensions on the climate **front**. The weather record of the last year indicates that climate **diplomats**, especially in the big powers, **need** to be much more **nimble**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Register** (verb) – Record, log, enroll, list, document. दर्ज करना by all, unanimously acknowledged, without exception. सभी के अनुसार
2. **Large-scale** (adjective) – Extensive, widespread, massive, broad, comprehensive. व्यापक
3. **Fossil Fuel** (noun) – Natural fuel such as coal, oil, or gas formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.
4. **Commence** (verb) – Begin, start, initiate, embark on, inaugurate. आरंभ करना
5. **Threshold** (noun) – Limit, boundary, brink, verge, point of entry. सीमा
6. **Breach** (verb) – Violate, break, infringe, contravene, transgress. तोड़ना
7. **Landmark** (adjective) – Significant, historic, notable, momentous, pivotal. महत्वपूर्ण
8. **Pertain** (to) (verb) – Relate to, concern, apply to, be relevant to, be pertinent to. संबंधित होना
9. **Set a precedent** (phrase) – Establish a standard, serve as an example, create a benchmark, lay down a pattern, set a model. मिसाल कायम करना
10. **Worrying** (adjective) – Distressing, concerning, alarming, unsettling, troubling. चिंताजनक
11. **By all accounts** (phrase) – According to everyone, universally agreed, as reported
12. **Renewable Energy** (RE) (noun) – Energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power.
13. **Appreciably** (adverb) – Significantly, noticeably, substantially, considerably, markedly. काफी हद तक
14. **Decarbonisation** (noun) – The process of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
15. **Green House Gas** (GHG) (noun) – Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, like carbon dioxide and methane.
16. **El Niño** (noun) – A climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
17. **Drive** (verb) – Propel, motivate, push, stimulate, spur. प्रेरित करना
18. **Deployment** (noun) – Utilisation, implementation, consumption, use, उपयोग
19. **Offset** (noun) – Counterbalance, compensation, balance, equalizer, corrective. भरपाई करना
20. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाएं

21. **In contrast** (phrase) – On the other hand, conversely, in opposition, differently, as opposed to. इसके विपरीत
22. **Global South** (noun) – Countries considered to be among the less developed and less economically powerful nations of the world, generally located in the Southern Hemisphere.
23. **Remarkable** (adjective) – Extraordinary, outstanding, notable, impressive, striking. असाधारण
24. **Rivalry** (noun) – Competition, contention, conflict, opposition, enmity. प्रतिस्पर्धा
25. **Hobble** (verb) – Hamper, impede, obstruct, hinder, restrict. बाधित करना
26. **Wield** (verb) – Exercise, use, utilize, employ, handle. इस्तेमाल करना
27. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, levy, inflict, exact, demand. थोपना
28. **Dominate** (verb) – Control, govern, rule, predominate, overpower. हावी होना
29. **Critical** (to) (adjective) – Crucial, vital, essential, imperative, key. महत्वपूर्ण
30. **Green Energy Transition** (noun) – The process of shifting from traditional energy sources to renewable energy.
31. **Transition** (noun) – Change, shift, move, transformation, conversion. परिवर्तन
32. **In a similar vein** (phrase) – Similarly, in the same way, likewise, in a like manner, analogously. इसी तरह
33. **Somewhat** (adverb) – Moderately, slightly, to some extent, fairly, reasonably. कुछ हद तक
34. **Overcome** (verb) – Conquer, surmount, prevail over, overcome, triumph over. काबू पाना
35. **Front** (noun) – Aspect, facet, side, dimension पहलू
36. **Diplomat** (noun) – Envoy, ambassador, negotiator, representative, emissary. राजनयिक
37. **Nimble** (adjective) – Agile, quick, swift, prompt, speedy. फुर्तीला

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Record-Breaking Heat:** 2023 was confirmed as the warmest year on record by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (CCS), with global temperatures reaching new highs from June onwards.
2. **Historical Comparison:** The average global temperature in 2023 was 1.48 degrees Celsius higher than in pre-industrial times, marking a significant increase.
3. **Near Future Projections:** Scientists warn that the period ending in early 2024 could see temperatures 1.5 degrees above the 1850s.
4. **Paris Agreement Context:** Although the temperature rise is alarming, it doesn't immediately breach the thresholds set by the Paris Pact, which considers longer-term averages.
5. **Comparison with Previous Records:** The average temperature in 2023 was 0.17 degrees higher than in 2016, the former record year.
6. **Renewable Energy Growth:** Despite significant growth in renewable energy installations over the past five years, this hasn't led to substantial decarbonisation.
7. **GHG Levels Rising:** Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere hit a record high in 2023.
8. **Emissions Dynamics:** While methane emissions' increase slowed, CO2 levels rose consistently, suggesting renewable energy gains are being negated by continued use of unclean energy.
9. **Global Emissions Responsibility:** Assigning blame for rising emissions is complex; historically, the US and EU have contributed over 32% of emissions, while India's contribution is under 3.5%.
10. **Global South's Role:** Countries like India need to continue their efforts in renewable energy, despite having contributed less historically to emissions.
11. **India's Renewable Progress:** India has significantly increased its renewable capacity, from 35 GW in 2014 to nearly 180 GW.
12. **Storage Technology Lag:** There's a global lag in developing technology for storing renewable energy for times when sun or wind is not sufficient.
13. **US-China Rivalry Impact:** Recent US-China tensions have disrupted renewable energy supply chains.
14. **Trade and Security Issues:** China's export bans on rare earth minerals and the US's restrictions on Chinese battery manufacturers reflect geopolitical challenges in the renewable sector.
15. **Diplomatic Movements:** Recent indications suggest the US and China may be willing to cooperate more on climate issues, highlighting the need for proactive climate diplomacy.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what was a significant contributing factor to the record high global temperatures in 2023?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The sole influence of El Nino and its direct impact on global temperatures.
 - B. A decrease in methane emissions compared to previous years.
 - C. The increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, combined with El Nino effects.
 - D. The rapid increase in renewable energy installations over the past five years.
2. **What does the passage imply about the responsibility for climate change based on historical emissions?**
 - A. Emerging economies and the Third World are primarily responsible for the increase in emissions.
 - B. The United States and the European Union have a combined share of emissions significantly less than that of India.
 - C. Historically, the United States and the European Union have contributed over 32% of emissions, significantly more than India.
 - D. The responsibility for climate change is evenly distributed among all countries since 1850.
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Alarmed
 - D. Indifferent
4. **Which of the following statements is INCORRECT according to the passage?**
 - A. The average global temperature in 2023 was 1.48 degrees hotter than during the period when large-scale burning of fossil fuels began.
 - B. The record increase in average temperature in 2023 over 2016 is an indication that renewable energy installations have significantly decarbonized the planet.
 - C. The EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service has confirmed 2023 as the warmest year on record.
 - D. Methane emissions increased at a lower rate in 2023 compared to the past three years.
5. **What does the passage imply about the role of renewable energy (RE) in reducing global warming?**
 - A. RE has significantly reduced the levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere.
 - B. Despite the growth in RE, GHG concentrations reached a record level in 2023.
 - C. RE has completely offset the use of unclean energy sources.
 - D. The increase in RE has led to a decrease in methane emissions.
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Blow one's own trumpet
 - A. Follow others
 - B. Praise oneself
 - C. Condemn others

D. Be self-reliant

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Select the most appropriate option to fill each blank.

Watermelon is thought to have originated in Africa's Kalahari Desert. Believe it (1)_____ not, the first recorded watermelon harvest (2)_____ nearly 5000 years ago in Egypt and is (3)_____ in Egyptian hieroglyphics on the walls of their (4)_____ buildings. This fruit was often placed (5) _____ the burial tombs of kings to provide nourishment in the afterlife

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

- A. but
- B. or
- C. and
- D. If

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

- A. contained
- B. produced
- C. discovered
- D. occurred

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

- A. depicted
- B. diverted
- C. distributed
- D. Directed

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

- A. obsolete
- B. outdated
- C. ancient
- D. elderly

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

- A. along
- B. with
- C. in
- D. After

12. Select the most appropriate **one word substitution** for the given group of words.

A place where clothes are kept

- A. Coffin
- B. Wardrobe
- C. Hangar
- D. Shaft

13. **In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.**

Everything that I like to eat are fattening.

- A. Everything that

- B. I like
C. are fattening
D. to eat
14. Select the most appropriate **antonym** of the given word.
VIGILANT
A. Wary
B. Rash
C. Alert
D. autious
15. Select the most appropriate **antonym** of the given word.
FLEXIBLE
A. Supple
B. Stiff
C. Stale
D. Soft
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The government has warned the traders not to _____ onions
A. hoard
B. combine
C. gross
D. Bulk
17. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No improvement.**
He sing always when he is having a shower.
A. He always sings
B. He always sing
C. No improvement
D. Always he is singing
18. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
A. He then called out to the people but by then only a red glow was visible in the sky.
B. At first, he thought it was a stuck kite.
C. Bheema was visiting his fields when he spotted a rising disc shaped object.
D. But when it started rising higher and emitted light, he was shocked.
A. BACD
B. BDAC
C. CDAB
D. CBDA
19. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
IMPLORE
A. Command
B. Honour

- C. Plead
- D. Refuse

20. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**

- A. It requires physical endurance, which can be built with training and exercise.
- B. Truly strong personalities meet challenges of life bravely and face hardships with equanimity.
- C. However, strength of character is a personality trait or a quality.
- D. Physical strength is the ability to cope with a physically challenging task.

- A. CBAD
- B. BACD
- C. DACB
- D. DBCA

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

The students went to their _____ classes after the morning assembly

- A. respected
- B. respective
- C. respectable
- D. Respectful

22. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

Martin drew a picture of the snow-capped mountains.

- A. A picture of the snow-capped mountains has been drawn by Martin.
- B. A picture of the snow-capped mountains was drawn by Martin.
- C. A picture of the snow-capped mountains is drawn by Martin.
- D. A picture of the snow-capped mountains is being drawn by Martin.

23. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Spill the beans

- A. Perform magic
- B. Work hard
- C. Waste money
- D. Give away a secret

24. **Select the most appropriate one word substitution for the given group of words.**

A person very reserved in speech

- A. Confident
- B. Reticent
- C. Eloquent
- D. Adamant

25. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

GLORIOUS

- A. splendid
- B. unusual
- C. enormous
- D. gentle

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **C) The increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, combined with El Nino effects**

The passage states that both the increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations and the El Nino phenomenon contributed to the warming observed in 2023. While the rate of methane emissions decreased, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere continued to increase at a rate similar to recent years. This combination of factors, rather than a single cause, led to the record high temperatures.

2. **C) Historically, the United States and the European Union have contributed over 32% of emissions, significantly more than India.**

The passage highlights that, historically, the United States and the European Union have a combined share of emissions from 1850 to 2021 of more than 32%, which is significantly larger than India's share of less than 3.5%. This suggests that the responsibility for climate change is disproportionately distributed, with developed nations having contributed more to historical emissions than emerging economies and the Third World.

3. **C) Alarmed**

The tone of the passage is 'alarmed'. This is evident from the urgent language used to discuss the record-setting global temperatures of 2023 and the emphasis on the need for accelerated decarbonization and renewable energy efforts. The passage highlights concerns about global warming trends and the insufficient impact of current renewable energy installations on reducing carbon emissions, indicating a tone of alarm and urgency.

4. **B) The record increase in average temperature in 2023 over 2016 is an indication that renewable energy installations have significantly decarbonized the planet.**

Although renewable energy installations have increased, the passage indicates that this has not had a meaningful impact on the decarbonization of the planet. It is highlighted that despite the growth in renewable energy, greenhouse gas concentrations reached a record level in 2023, and carbon dioxide increased at a rate similar to recent years. This contradicts the notion that renewable energy installations have significantly decarbonized the planet.

5. **B) Despite the growth in RE, GHG concentrations reached a record level in 2023.**

The passage mentions that despite the increase in renewable energy installations, GHG concentrations in the atmosphere reached a record level in 2023. This suggests that the growth in RE has not been sufficient to significantly reduce GHG levels. Options A, C, and D are incorrect as they overstate the impact of RE or mention effects that are not supported by the passage.

6. B) **Blow one's own trumpet** (idiom) – Praise oneself **अपनी तारीफ करना**
7. B) **Or** का use होगा क्योंकि "believe it or not" एक common phrase है, जिसका अर्थ है कि मानो या न मानो, किसी भी अविश्वसनीय बात को बताने के लिए use होता है। 'But', 'And', और 'If' इस specific context में grammatically incorrect हैं क्योंकि वे इस common phrase के हिस्से नहीं हैं।
- **'Or'** should be used because "believe it or not" is a common phrase used to introduce a piece of information that might be hard to believe. 'But', 'And', and 'If' are grammatically incorrect in this specific context as they are not part of this common phrase.
8. D) **'Occurred'** का use होगा क्योंकि "occurred" का अर्थ होता है होना या घटित होना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि पहली बार तरबूज की कटाई लगभग 5000 साल पहले मिस्र में हुई थी, इसलिए 'occurred' यहाँ सही है। 'Contained' का अर्थ होता है शामिल होना, 'Produced' का अर्थ होता है उत्पादित करना, और 'Discovered' का अर्थ होता है खोजना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **'Occurred'** should be used because it means to take place or happen. The sentence mentions that the first recorded watermelon harvest happened nearly 5000 years ago in Egypt, making 'occurred' the right choice. On the other hand, 'Contained' means to include, 'Produced' means to make or create, and 'Discovered' means to find, which are not appropriate in this context.
9. A) **'Depicted'** का use होगा क्योंकि "depicted" का अर्थ होता है चित्रित करना या दर्शाना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि वॉटरमेलन की पहली बार की रिकॉर्डिंग इजिप्ट में हुई थी और इसे उनकी इमारतों की दीवारों पर हाइरोग्लिफिक्स में दिखाया गया है, इसलिए 'depicted' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Diverted' का अर्थ है भटकाना, 'Distributed' का अर्थ है वितरित करना, और 'Directed' का अर्थ है निर्देशित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Depicted'** should be used because it means to represent in picture or portray. The sentence mentions that the first recorded watermelon harvest was in Egypt and it is represented in Egyptian hieroglyphics on the walls of their ancient buildings. So, 'depicted' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Diverted' means to turn aside, 'Distributed' means to give out, and 'Directed' means to guide or manage, which don't fit in this context.
10. C) **'Ancient'** का use होगा क्योंकि "ancient" का अर्थ होता है बहुत पुराना या प्राचीन। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि watermelon की पहली बार चर्चा लगभग 5000 साल पहले हुई थी,

इसलिए 'ancient' buildings यहाँ सही है। 'Obsolete' का अर्थ होता है पुराना या अप्रचलित, 'Outdated' का अर्थ होता है पुराना या अद्यावसानिक, और 'Elderly' का अर्थ होता है वृद्ध जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Ancient**' should be used because it means very old or from a long time ago. The sentence mentions that the first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5000 years ago, making 'ancient' buildings appropriate here. Whereas, 'Obsolete' means out of date or no longer in use, 'Outdated' means old fashioned or no longer relevant, and 'Elderly' refers to old age, which don't fit in this context.

11. C) '**In**' का use होगा क्योंकि "in" इस context में सही तरह से fit होता है, जब बात करी जाती है किसी चीज को किसी विशेष स्थान पर रखने की। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह फल राजाओं की कब्रों में रखा जाता था, इसलिए 'in' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Along' का अर्थ है साथ में, 'With' का अर्थ है के साथ, और 'After' का अर्थ है बाद में, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**In**' should be used because it fits perfectly in this context when referring to placing something at a specific location. The sentence mentions that this fruit was often placed in the burial tombs of kings to nourish them in the afterlife, making 'in' the appropriate choice here. Whereas, 'Along' means together with, 'With' means in the company of, and 'After' means subsequent to and because of, which don't fit in this context.

12. B) **Wardrobe** (noun) – A large, tall cupboard or recess in which clothes may be hung or stored.
वस्त्रागार

- **Coffin** (noun) – A long, narrow box in which a dead body is buried or cremated. शवकोठी
- **Hangar** (noun) – A large building with extensive floor area, typically for housing aircraft.
विमानगार
- **Shaft** (noun) – A long, narrow, typically vertical hole that gives access to a mine, accommodates an elevator, or is used for ventilation. खदान

13. C) **are fattening**' की जगह 'is fattening' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Everything एक singular subject है, इसलिए उसके साथ singular verb 'is' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए; जैसे— Every book that is on the shelf is old.

- 'is fattening' will be used instead of 'are fattening' because 'Everything that I like to eat' is a singular subject, so it should be followed by a singular verb 'is'; Like— Every book that is on the shelf is old.

14. B) **Vigilant** (adjective) – Watchful, alert, attentive, on the lookout. सतर्क

Antonym: **Rash** (adjective) – Acting without consideration, hasty, impulsive, reckless. अविचारी

- **Wary** (adjective) – Feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems, cautious, careful, circumspect. **सतर्क**
- **Alert** (adjective) – Fully aware and attentive; wide-awake, watchful, vigilant. **सचेत**
- **Cautious** (adjective) – (There seems to be a typo in the options, assuming it is 'Cautious') Careful to avoid potential problems or dangers, wary, careful, circumspect. **सतर्क**

15. B) **FLEXIBLE** (adjective) – Capable of bending easily without breaking, pliable, pliant, bendy, limber, supple. **लचीला**

Antonym: **Stiff** (adjective) – Not easily bent or changed in shape, rigid, firm, hard, inflexible. **कठोर**

- **Supple** (adjective) – Bending and moving easily and gracefully, flexible. **लचीला**
- **Stale** (adjective) – No longer fresh and pleasant to eat, hard, musty, dry. **बासी**
- **Soft** (adjective) – Easy to mold, cut, compress, or fold; not hard or firm to the touch. **नरम**

16. 'A) **Hoard**' का use होगा क्योंकि "hoard" का अर्थ होता है जमा करना या संचय करना।

Sentence में government ने traders को चेतावनी दी है कि वे प्याज को न जमा करें, इसलिए 'hoard' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Combine' का अर्थ है मिलाना, 'Gross' का अर्थ है कुल मिलाकर, और 'Bulk' का अर्थ है बड़ी मात्रा में, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Hoard'** should be used because it means to accumulate or store away large amounts of something. In the sentence, the government has warned traders not to store away large amounts of onions, making 'hoard' the correct option. Whereas, 'Combine' means to unite, 'Gross' means total before deductions, and 'Bulk' means large quantity or magnitude, which don't fit in this context.

17. A) 'He sing always' के बदले 'He always sings' का प्रयोग होगा। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण के अनुसार, क्रिया (verb) 'sing' को व्यक्ति और संख्या के अनुसार 'sings' में बदलना चाहिए, जब विषय 'he' हो। इसके अलावा, क्रिया विशेषण (adverb) 'always' को क्रिया से पहले रखना चाहिए; जैसे— He always sings his favorite songs in the morning

- 'He always sings' will be used instead of 'He sing always'. In English grammar, the verb 'sing' should be conjugated to 'sings' for the subject 'he', and the adverb 'always' should be placed before the verb; Like— He always sings his favorite songs in the morning.

18. D) **CBDA**

Bheema was visiting his fields when he spotted a rising disc shaped object. At first, he thought it was a stuck kite. But when it started rising higher and emitted light, he was shocked. He then called out to the people but by then only a red glow was visible in the sky.

19. C) **Implore** (verb) – To beg urgently or piteously, as for aid or mercy; beseech; entreat. **प्रार्थना करना**

Synonym: **Plead** (verb) – To appeal or entreat earnestly, beg, implore, beseech. **विनती करना**

- **Command** (verb) – To direct with specific authority or prerogative; order. **आदेश देना**
- **Honour** (noun) – High respect; esteem, a privilege. **सम्मान**
- **Refuse** (verb) – Indicate or show that one is not willing to do something. **इनकार करना**

20. C) **DACB**

Physical strength is the ability to cope with a physically challenging task. It requires physical endurance, which can be built with training and exercise. However, strength of character is a personality trait or a quality. Truly strong personalities meet challenges of life bravely and face hardships with equanimity.

21. B) 'respective' का use होगा क्योंकि "respective" का अर्थ होता है प्रत्येक व्यक्ति या वस्तु के लिए विशेष रूप से। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि विद्यार्थी सभा के बाद अपनी-अपनी कक्षाओं में गए थे, इसलिए 'respective' यहाँ सही है। 'Respected' का अर्थ होता है सम्मानित, 'Respectable' का अर्थ होता है सम्मानजनक, और 'Respectful' का अर्थ होता है सम्मानपूर्ण, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'respective' should be used because it means specifically for each person or thing involved. The sentence mentions that the students went to their own classes after the morning assembly, making 'respective' fitting here. Whereas, 'Respected' means honored, 'Respectable' means worthy of respect, and 'Respectful' means showing respect, which don't fit in this context.

22. B) A picture of the snow-capped mountains was drawn by Martin.

23. D) **Spill the beans** (idiom) – Give away a secret **राज खोल देना**

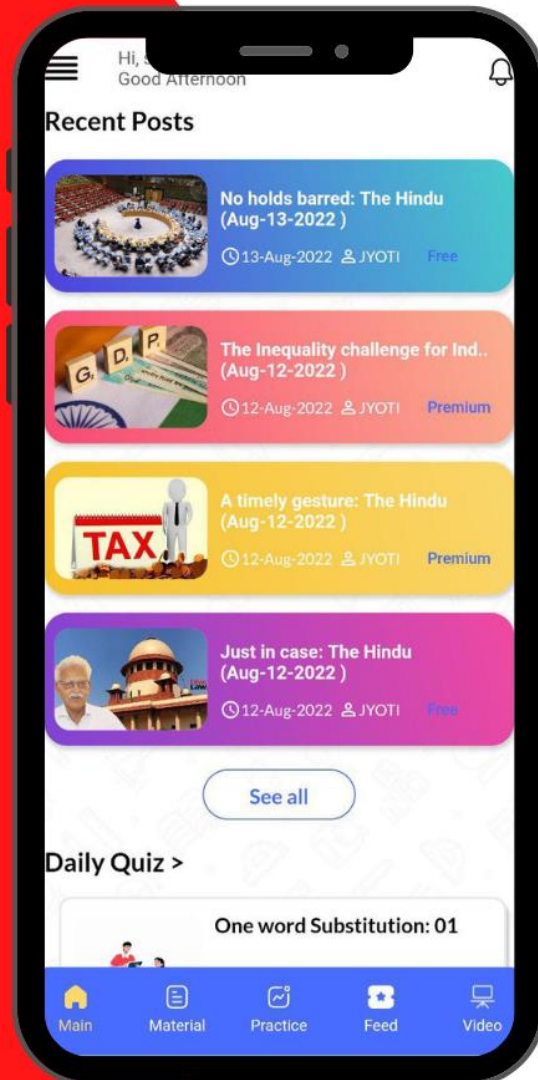
24. B) **Reticent** (adjective) – Being reserved in speech, restrained in expression, presentation, or appearance **अल्पभाषी**

- **Confident** (adjective) – Feeling or showing confidence in oneself or one's abilities or qualities **आत्मविश्वासी**
- **Eloquent** (adjective) – Fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing **वाक्चतुर**
- **Adamant** (adjective) – Refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind **कठोर**

25. A) **GLORIOUS** (adjective) – Characterized by great beauty and splendor, magnificent, resplendent, splendid शानदार

Synonym: **Splendid** (adjective) – Magnificent, impressive, grand, resplendent, glorious. शानदार

- **Unusual** (adjective) – Not habitual or commonly occurring or done, uncommon, rare, atypical. असामान्य
- **Enormous** (adjective) – Very large in size, quantity, or extent, huge, vast, gigantic. विशाल
- **Gentle** (adjective) – Mild in temperament or behavior, kind, tender, soft, compassionate. कोमल



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