

Fair trade: On the 29th COP and India's carbon market

India must develop a **transparent** carbon trade policy

Ahead of the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties in Baku, Azerbaijan, next month, there is renewed energy in government circles to **accelerate** Indian industry's **transition** to carbon markets. While the broader **theme** of this edition of the COP **is** increasing **ambition** on climate finance, a key item on the agenda is clarity on carbon markets. **A specific section** under the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015, called Article 6, **lays the contours** under which **carbon markets** — or the **enabling** of trading of prevented **greenhouse gas emissions** among countries — **can** be **operationalised**. Carbon markets **incentivise** climate action by enabling parties to trade in **carbon credits** generated by the reduction or removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, such as by **switching** from fossil fuels to **renewable energy** or enhancing or conserving **carbon stocks** in **ecosystems** such as forests. **Subsections** within Article 6 provide guidelines on what kinds of carbon-reduction activities and verification **mechanisms** **are** permissible, and how countries may enter into **bilateral** agreements so that emission reductions in one country may be legally claimed by another.

While carbon markets **came into existence** nearly two **decades** ago, they have been **plagued** by **opacity** and **criticism** that they only created the **illusion** of emission reductions. Although such markets have revived, confusion remains about how credits may be verified. There is **optimism** that Baku may see a final **resolution** of this problem and that the first legal credits may begin to be claimed by countries next year. **India**, due to its **voluntary commitment** to generate half its electricity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030, **stands to gain** as a **host** of several carbon-reduction projects. Additionally, there are also **mushrooming** private sector enterprises in India **setting up** innovative forestry projects that **reportedly** lock carbon and can be claimed as credits by multinational companies, traded through **so-called** voluntary carbon markets. India's iron and steel industries are among the nine types of industries expected to **meet** emission intensity standards by 2025. By restricting the amount of carbon per unit of production, this will, depending on regulatory **enforcement**, formally **kick-start** India's carbon market. However, this will invite complex calculations and, **given** the experience of a related energy-efficiency trading scheme, **run the risk of** not **exerting** enough pressure on companies to **comply**. While calculating carbon saved is a **fraught** exercise, India must aim, through its research institutions and authorities, to evolve a transparent and fair policy that is **on a par with** the best internationally. [Practice exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Transparent** (adjective) – Clear, obvious, candid, open, lucid पारदर्शी
2. **Accelerate** (verb) – Speed up, hasten, expedite, quicken, advance तेज करना
3. **Transition** (noun) – Change, shift, conversion, transformation, progression परिवर्तन
4. **Ambition** (noun) – Aspiration, goal, aim, objective, desire महत्वाकांक्षा
5. **Lay the contour** (phrase) – Define the framework, outline the structure, set the boundaries, establish the parameters, shape the framework रूपरेखा बनाना
6. **Enabling** (noun) – Facilitating, allowing, permitting, empowering, authorizing सक्षम करना
7. **Greenhouse gas emission** (noun) – the release of gases into the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect and global warming.
8. **Operationalise** (verb) – Implement, execute, activate, put into action, make operational कार्यान्वित करना
9. **Incentivise** (verb) – Encourage, motivate, stimulate, promote, spur प्रोत्साहित करना
10. **Carbon credit** (noun) – It permits that allow the owner to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases (GHGs). One credit allows the emission of one ton of carbon dioxide or the equivalent of other greenhouse gases.
11. **Switch** (verb) – Change, shift, convert, transition, alternate बदलना
12. **Renewable energy** (noun) – energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed.
13. **Carbon stock** (noun) – the amount of carbon that is stored in a habitat at a specific time. It can also refer to the physical storage of carbon in wood products.
14. **Ecosystem** (noun) – Environment, habitat, biome, ecological community, natural system पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
15. **Subsection** (noun) – Section, part, division, segment, category उपखंड
16. **Mechanism** (noun) – System, process, method, procedure, framework तंत्र
17. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, joint, dual द्विपक्षीय
18. **Come into existence** (phrase) – Emerge, arise, materialize, be formed, originate अस्तित्व में आना
19. **Decade** (noun) – a period of ten years दशक
20. **Plague** (verb) – Burden, afflict, trouble, torment, distress परेशान करना

21. **Opacity** (noun) – Obscurity, lack of transparency, murkiness, cloudiness, unclear nature अस्पष्टता
22. **Criticism** (noun) – Disapproval, critique, censure, condemnation, objection आलोचना
23. **Illusion** (noun) – Deception, mirage, fantasy, misconception, false impression भ्रम
24. **Optimism** (noun) – Hopefulness, positivity, confidence, assurance, bullishness आशावाद
25. **Resolution** (noun) – Solution, answer, end, upshot, समाधान
26. **Voluntary** (adjective) – Optional, discretionary, unforced, intentional, free स्वैच्छिक
27. **Commitment** (noun) – Dedication, pledge, promise, obligation, assurance प्रतिबद्धता
28. **Stand to gain** (phrase) – Have the potential to benefit, likely to profit, positioned to receive, set to earn, poised to gain लाभ उठाने की स्थिति में
29. **Host** (noun) – Organizer, presenter, venue, host country, facilitator आयोजक
30. **Mushroom** (verb) – Expand rapidly, proliferate, grow quickly, multiply, surge तेजी से बढ़ना
31. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, create, initiate, launch, organize स्थापित करना
32. **Reportedly** (adverb) – Allegedly, supposedly, purportedly, ostensibly, apparently कथित तौर पर
33. **So-called** (adjective) – Alleged, purported, supposed, nominal, labeled तथाकथित
34. **Meet** (verb) – Satisfy, fulfill, achieve, comply with, reach पूरा करना
35. **Enforcement** (noun) – Implementation, execution, application, administration, policing प्रवर्तन
36. **Kick-start** (verb) – Initiate, launch, begin, stimulate, jump-start शुरू करना
37. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, in light of, taking into account, due to, because of देखते हुए
38. **Run the risk of** (phrase) – Be exposed to, face the possibility of, be liable to, potentially encounter, risk जोखिम उठाना
39. **Exert** (verb) – Apply, use, exercise, wield, deploy लागू करना
40. **Comply** (verb) – Adhere, conform, follow, obey, abide by पालन करना
41. **Fraught** (adjective) – Tense, anxious, uptight, troubled, apprehensive थका देने वाला
42. **On a par with** (phrase) – Equal to, comparable to, on the same level as, equivalent to, matching के बराबर

Summary of the Editorial

1. The 29th Conference of Parties (COP) will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, with a focus on climate finance and carbon markets.
2. India is eager to enhance its industry's involvement in carbon markets, aligning with global climate initiatives.
3. Article 6 of the Paris Climate Agreement provides guidelines for implementing carbon markets globally.
4. Carbon markets allow countries to trade carbon credits for reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Trading carbon credits incentivizes actions such as switching to renewable energy or conserving forests.
6. Article 6 also defines permissible carbon-reduction activities and the criteria for verification.
7. Carbon markets have been around for two decades but face criticism for being opaque and ineffective in real emissions reductions.
8. COP 29 aims to address the challenge of verifying carbon credits to ensure their validity.
9. The goal is to enable countries to claim legal carbon credits by next year.
10. India's target to generate half its electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030 positions it to benefit from carbon markets.
11. Several private sector initiatives in India focus on forestry projects to generate carbon credits.
12. India's iron and steel sectors are expected to meet emissions standards by 2025, which could support a national carbon market.
13. A regulatory framework that limits carbon emissions per unit of production may soon be implemented.
14. Effective enforcement is necessary to ensure companies comply with carbon standards.
15. India needs a transparent and internationally comparable carbon trade policy, relying on research to ensure fairness and effectiveness.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which specific goal does the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) in Baku aim to address in relation to climate finance?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Increase public awareness about climate finance in developing nations.
 - B. Provide clarity on carbon markets and trading of carbon credits.
 - C. Establish a universal standard for greenhouse gas emissions.
 - D. Set stricter penalties for countries not meeting emission standards.
2. **Why does India stand to benefit from the establishment of carbon markets?**
 - A. India has a high reliance on fossil fuels, allowing it to trade emissions.
 - B. India's commitment to renewable energy by 2030 aligns with carbon market goals.
 - C. India's industries lack emission intensity standards, making it eligible for credits.
 - D. India has the largest number of carbon-reduction projects globally.
3. **What concern is associated with the implementation of carbon markets according to the passage?**
 - A. The calculation of carbon savings is complex and may not be fully accurate.
 - B. Regulatory agencies lack the power to enforce standards effectively.
 - C. Carbon markets increase the overall cost of energy for developing countries.
 - D. Countries are not willing to enter bilateral agreements for emissions trading.
4. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the current state of carbon markets globally?**
 - A. Carbon markets are fully operational but lack regulatory oversight.
 - B. Carbon markets only benefit developing countries with high emissions.
 - C. Carbon markets have faced challenges in credibility and transparency.
 - D. Carbon markets have successfully reduced global emissions over the years.
5. **What can be inferred about India's approach to carbon markets based on its commitment to renewable energy and emission standards?**
 - A. India is actively investing in carbon markets as a primary revenue source.
 - B. India seeks to limit industrial activity to meet carbon emission goals.
 - C. India plans to negotiate with other countries to transfer emissions credits.
 - D. India aims to establish itself as a key player by aligning with global carbon reduction standards.
6. **Select the most appropriate option that means the same as the underlined group of words to fill in the blank.**

Most of the rivers dry up during the summer season, but the Ganga is full of water round the year because it is _____.

 - A. perennial
 - B. biannual
 - C. annual
 - D. Biennial

7. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**

Bankrupts are those who are incapable to pay their debts.

- A. powerful
- B. meagre
- C. capable
- D. incompetent

8. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Rohan exercised and ate a lot, lest he should not be weak

- A. lest he would be weak
- B. lest he should be weak
- C. lest he should not weak
- D. lest he would not be weak

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

Can you compose an inspiring poem?

- A. Can an inspiring poem be composed?
- B. Can an inspiring poem by you composed?
- C. Can an inspiring poem be composed by you?
- D. An inspiring poem can be composed by you.

10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given group of words.**

On cloud nine

- A. Flying in the sky
- B. Being angry with someone
- C. Being very high
- D. Being very delighted

11. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.**

(P) dreams provide an escape
(Q) where reality is suspended
(R) into a world
(O) of endless possibilities

- A. PROQ
- B. QORP
- C. OPQR
- D. RPOQ

12. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

- A. So I am not very sure
- B. I have a driving license
- C. Of myself reaching home safely

- D. But no real driving experience
- A. BDAC
B. CABD
C. BDCA
D. BCAD
13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Kilter
- A. Anarchy
B. Shambles
C. Disrepair
D. Order
14. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Condone
- A. Solicitude
B. Solace
C. Penalty
D. Pardon
15. **The given sentence is divided into four segments. Select the option that has the segment with a grammatical error.**
We were on the way/ to the party;/ suddenly, there/ will a heavy downpour.
- A. will a heavy downpour.
B. suddenly, there
C. We were on the way
D. to the party
16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Tendency
- A. Decoy
B. Aversion
C. Proneness
D. Distaste
17. **Select the option that can substitute/replace the bracketed word correctly and complete the sentence.**
He (seek) for the wallet in his pocket.
- A. Are seeking
B. Had seeking
C. Seeking
D. Sought
18. **Select the correct spelling to fill in the blank.**
When numerous ideas are presented in a historical context, more than mere _____ can be seen
- A. paralelism

- B. parallelism
- C. paralialism
- D. parallelism

19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Dogmatic

- A. Diplomatic
- B. Conservative
- C. Liberal
- D. Concerned

20. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM for the underlined word in the given sentence.**

Despite his annoyance, Rahul knew that rushing the delicate process would only lead to mistakes

- A. Gnawer
- B. Serenity
- C. Susceptibility
- D. Absurdity

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.

This Diwali is more significant because we are going to celebrate it after three years, without the evil shadow of Covid-19 that (1)_____ looming over all festivities. The lockdowns and endless bad news of death and (2)_____ had turned our country into a zone of gloom. But, this season of Diwali (3)_____ all the sorrows of people by lighting the candle of hope in their lives. We can see the lights, the candles, the lanterns, and the busy people coming out of their houses and purchasing toys for their children. Let's (4)_____ those people who have made such a huge contribution to (5)_____ good thoughts and saving people's lives.

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

- A. was
- B. is
- C. were
- D. are

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

- A. demonetisation
- B. disease
- C. economic boom
- D. new birth

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

- A. has hovered
- B. had recognised
- C. has adopted
- D. has shed

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

- A. onerous
- B. berate
- C. salute
- D. terminate

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

- A. stagnating
- B. spreading
- C. implicating
- D. impeding

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. B) The passage indicates that a key agenda for the COP meeting in Baku is clarity on carbon markets. This involves setting guidelines for carbon credits and defining the operational structure for trading these credits among countries. While other options mention relevant climate goals, they are not specifically highlighted as the focus of the Baku COP meeting.
2. B) The passage highlights India's voluntary commitment to generate half of its electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030, making it a potential host for various carbon-reduction projects. This alignment with the goals of the carbon market presents a unique opportunity for India to earn credits. Options A, C, and D are incorrect as they do not match the details provided in the passage.
3. A) The passage points out that calculating carbon saved is challenging, requiring India to create a transparent policy for accurate results. This complexity and the potential inaccuracies in calculating emissions reductions are a noted concern, especially given past issues with energy-efficiency trading schemes. The other options either misrepresent or are not explicitly stated in the passage.
4. C) The passage mentions that carbon markets have been "plagued by opacity and criticism," indicating issues with transparency and credibility. This suggests that while carbon markets are operational, they face challenges in proving their effectiveness. The other options either misrepresent the situation or are not supported by details in the passage.
5. D) The passage notes India's goal of generating half its electricity from non-fossil sources and setting emission intensity standards for its industries by 2025, which aligns with international carbon reduction efforts. This implies that India is positioning itself strategically within the global carbon market, aiming to capitalize on its alignment with these standards. Options A, C, and D either misinterpret India's objectives or lack support from the passage.
6. A) **Perennial** (adjective) – lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time; enduring or continually recurring. साल भर रहने वाला
 - **Biannual** (adjective) – occurring twice a year. वर्ष में दो बार होने वाला
 - **Annual** (adjective) – occurring once every year. वार्षिक
 - **Biennial** (adjective) – occurring every two years. दो साल में एक बार होने वाला
7. D) "incompetent" का use सही होगा क्योंकि 'incapable' का अर्थ होता है 'असमर्थ' या 'किसी कार्य को करने में सक्षम नहीं।' 'Incompetent' का अर्थ भी 'किसी कार्य को करने में अयोग्य' होता है, और यह वाक्य में 'incapable' के synonym के रूप में उपयुक्त है।

"incompetent" is the correct choice because 'incapable' means 'unable' or 'not capable of doing something.' 'Incompetent' similarly means 'not qualified or unable to perform a task,' making it an appropriate synonym in this context.

Incapable (adjective) – Unable to do something, lacking the ability or capacity to perform.

अक्षम

Incompetent (adjective) – Lacking the skills or ability to do something successfully; ineffective.

अक्षम

- **Powerful (adjective)** – Having great power, strength, or control. शक्तिशाली
- **Meagre (adjective)** – Lacking in quantity or quality; insufficient. अपर्याप्त
- **Capable (adjective)** – Having the ability, fitness, or quality to do something. सक्षम

8. B) 'lest he should not be weak' के बदले 'lest he should be weak' का use होगा क्योंकि 'lest' के साथ negative sense पहले से implied होता है, इसलिए 'not' का प्रयोग गलत है। सही structure 'lest + subject + should + verb' है; जैसे— Rohan exercised and ate a lot, lest he should be weak. 'lest he should be weak' will be used instead of 'lest he should not be weak' because the word 'lest' already implies a negative sense, so using 'not' makes it incorrect. The correct structure is lest + subject + should + verb; Like— Rohan exercised and ate a lot, lest he should be weak.

9. C) Can an inspiring poem be composed by you?

Active Voice को Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए (Modal Verb + Object + Be + Past Participle + by + Subject) का use किया जाता है। sentence 'Can you compose an inspiring poem?' को Passive Voice में बदलते समय Object 'an inspiring poem' को वाक्य की शुरुआत में रखा जाता है। Modal Verb 'Can' को वैसा ही रखा जाता है, और Verb 'compose' को Passive Voice में बदलकर 'be composed' किया जाता है। अंत में, Subject 'you' को 'by you' के रूप में जोड़ा जाता है।

To convert Active Voice into Passive Voice with a modal verb, the structure (Modal Verb + Object + Be + Past Participle + by + Subject) is used. In the sentence 'Can you compose an inspiring poem?', the object 'an inspiring poem' is placed at the beginning. The modal verb 'Can' remains the same, and the verb 'compose' is changed to 'be composed' in Passive Voice. The subject 'you' is added at the end as 'by you'. Therefore, the correct answer is (Can an inspiring poem be composed by you?).

10. D) **On cloud nine** (idiom) – Being very delighted (बहुत खुश होना)

11. A) **PROQ**

dreams provide an escape dreams provide an escape of endless possibilities where reality is suspended

Why P comes first: P introduces the main subject and verb, establishing the idea that dreams offer a form of escape.

Why R follows P: R adds to P by describing where the escape leads — into a world. It connects directly to P by specifying that the escape provided by dreams leads into another world.

Why O follows R: O completes the idea introduced by R by describing this world as one "of endless possibilities."

Why Q follows O: Q provides additional information about the nature of this world by explaining that "reality is suspended."

12. A) **BDAC**

I have a driving license But no real driving experience So I am not very sure Of myself reaching home safely

Why B comes first: B introduces the main subject (I) and a fact about the subject's qualifications — possessing a driving license.

Why D follows B: D contrasts B by mentioning that despite having a license, the person lacks real driving experience. The use of "but" establishes a contrast with the previous statement.

Why A follows D: A expresses the consequence of the lack of experience mentioned in D — uncertainty. The use of "so" here implies a resulting feeling due to the contrast in D.

Why C follows A: C completes the thought introduced in A by specifying what the person is uncertain about — reaching home safely. This provides the full context of the speaker's uncertainty.

13. D) **Kilter** (noun) – Proper condition, balance, harmony, state of being in order.

Synonym: **Order** (noun) – An arrangement or condition where everything is functioning properly, system, organization. व्यवस्था

- **Anarchy** (noun) – Absence of government or control, disorder, chaos. अराजकता
- **Shambles** (noun) – A state of total disorder, chaos, mess. अराजकता
- **Disrepair** (noun) – A state of being in poor condition or needing repairs, deterioration. खराब स्थिति

14. D) **Condone** (verb) – To accept or allow behavior that is morally wrong or offensive, to forgive or overlook an offense. माफ करना, अनदेखी करना

Synonym: **Pardon** (verb) – To forgive someone for an offense or wrongdoing, to excuse. माफी देना

- **Solicitude** (noun) – Care or concern for someone or something. चिंता
- **Solace** (noun) – Comfort or consolation in a time of distress. सांत्वना
- **Penalty** (noun) – A punishment imposed for breaking a law or rule. दंड

15. A) 'will a heavy downpour' के बदले **'was a heavy downpour'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि मुख्य वाक्य में 'We were' का प्रयोग Past Tense में किया गया है। इसलिए, अचानक हुई बारिश को दर्शाने के लिए Past Tense का प्रयोग होना चाहिए; जैसे— "Suddenly, there was a heavy downpour."

'was a heavy downpour' will be used instead of 'will a heavy downpour' because the main sentence uses 'We were' in Past Tense. Hence, to indicate the sudden rain, the verb should also be in the Past Tense; like— "Suddenly, there was a heavy downpour."

16. C) **Tendency** (noun) – An inclination towards a particular type of behavior or action. प्रवृत्ति

Synonym: **Proneness** (noun) – The state of being likely to behave in a certain way, inclination, predisposition. प्रवृत्ति

- **Decoy** (noun) – A person or thing used to mislead or lure someone into a trap. प्रलोभन
- **Aversion** (noun) – A strong dislike or unwillingness towards something. अरुचि
- **Distaste** (noun) – A feeling of dislike or disapproval. नापसंदगी

17. D) 'seek' के बदले **Sought** 'का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह sentence Past Tense में है और 'sought' verb 'seek' का Past Tense रूप है। वाक्य में "He (seek) for the wallet in his pocket" का संदर्भ एक ऐसी स्थिति का है जो पहले हो चुकी है। यह वाक्य पहले से पूर्ण हो चुकी क्रिया का संदर्भ दे रहा है, 'Sought' will be used instead of 'seek' because the sentence is in Past Tense, and 'sought' is the Past Tense form of the verb 'seek.' The sentence refers to an action that has already been completed, so the correct form is 'sought.'

18. D) The correct spelling is '**Parallelism**' (Option D), which means "the use of successive verbal constructions in poetry or prose that correspond in grammatical structure, sound, meter, meaning, etc." In Hindi, it translates to "समांतरता या समानता।"

19. C) **Liberal** (adjective) – Open to new behavior or opinions, willing to discard traditional values. उदार

Antonym: **Dogmatic** (adjective) – Inclined to lay down principles as undeniably true, stubborn, inflexible, rigid. कट्टर

- **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Skilled in managing negotiations or people without causing bad feelings, tactful, sensitive. कूटनीतिक
- **Conservative** (adjective) – Holding to traditional attitudes and values, cautious about change. रूढ़िवादी
- **Concerned** (adjective) – Worried, anxious, troubled. चिंतित

20. B) **Annoyance** (noun) – A feeling of irritation or displeasure, being bothered by something. नाराज़गी, झुंझलाहट।

Antonym: **Serenity** (noun) – The state of being calm, peaceful, and untroubled. शांत, शांति।

- **Gnawer** (noun) – A type of animal that chews or gnaws, such as a rodent. चबाने वाला।
- **Susceptibility** (noun) – The state of being likely to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing, vulnerability. संवेदनशीलता।
- **Absurdity** (noun) – The state or quality of being ridiculous or wildly unreasonable. मूर्खता।

21. A) '**was**' का use होगा क्योंकि "was" का अर्थ है कि कोई घटना या स्थिति अतीत में हो रही थी। Covid-19 की छाया, जो बीते समय में Diwali को प्रभावित कर रही थी, को एक past event के रूप में बताया गया है, इसलिए 'was' सही है। जबकि 'is' वर्तमान काल को दर्शाता है, 'were' plural subjects के लिए है, और 'are' भी वर्तमान tense को दिखाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'was' will be used because it indicates that an event or situation was happening in the past. The sentence refers to Covid-19's shadow as a past event affecting Diwali celebrations, making 'was' appropriate. Whereas, 'is' refers to the present tense, 'were' is used with plural subjects, and 'are' also indicates the present tense, which are not suitable in this context.

22. B) **Disease** का use होगा क्योंकि "disease" का अर्थ है बीमारी या रोग। यहाँ sentence में "death" (मृत्यु) और किसी समस्या का जिक्र है, जो "disease" से संबंधित है। Covid-19 महामारी ने जीवन में मौत और बीमारी लाई थी, इसलिए 'disease' का उपयोग सही है। 'Demonetisation' का अर्थ है नोटबंदी, जो इस context में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Economic boom' का अर्थ है आर्थिक उछाल, जो यहाँ ठीक नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ निराशा का वर्णन हो रहा है। 'New birth' का अर्थ है नया जन्म, जो इस वाक्य में मृत्यु और परेशानी की चर्चा के साथ मेल नहीं खाता।

'Disease' will be used because it refers to illness or sickness. In the sentence, "death" and a problematic situation are mentioned, which is linked to "disease." The Covid-19 pandemic brought death and disease into life, so 'disease' is the correct fit. 'Demonetisation' refers to the banning of currency, which does not fit here. 'Economic boom' means a rise in economic growth, which is unsuitable because the passage describes gloom. 'New birth' refers to new life, which does not match with the talk of death and suffering.

23. D) **Has shed** का use होगा क्योंकि "shed" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को छोड़ना या छुटकारा पाना। इस sentence में यह बताया जा रहा है कि इस दिवाली ने लोगों के दुखों को दूर कर दिया है, इसलिए 'has shed' सही विकल्प है। जबकि 'has hovered' का अर्थ होता है मंडराना, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ दुखों का छुटकारा पाने की बात हो रही है। 'Had recognised' का अर्थ होता है पहचानना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Has adopted' का अर्थ होता है अपनाना, जो यहाँ fit नहीं बैठता।

'Has shed' will be used because "shed" means to let go of or get rid of something. The sentence mentions that this Diwali has removed the sorrows of people, making 'has shed' the right option. Whereas 'has hovered' means to linger, which is incorrect here as the context is about getting rid of sorrows. 'Had recognised' means to identify, and 'has adopted' means to take on, both of which do not fit in this context.

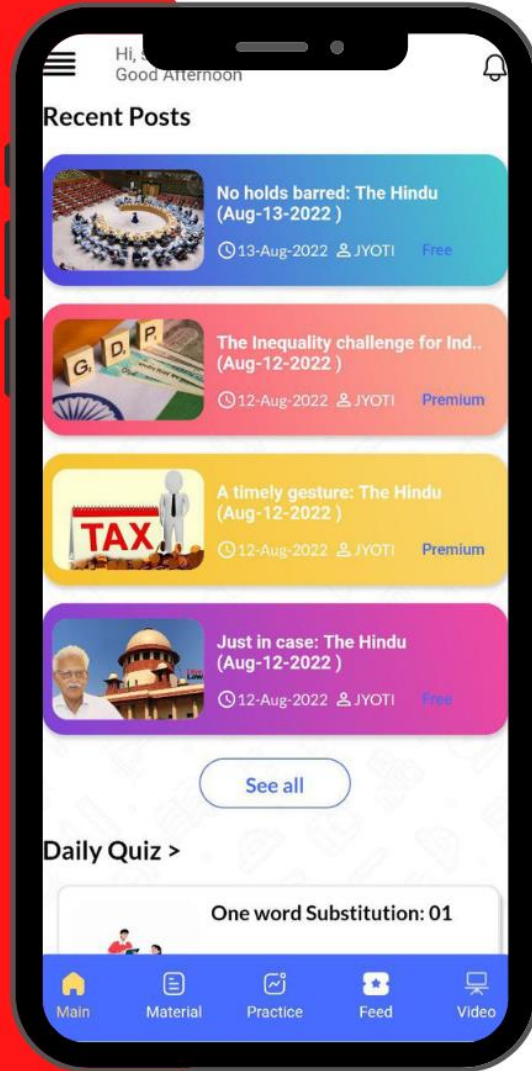
24. C) **Salute** का use होगा क्योंकि "salute" का अर्थ होता है सम्मान देना या प्रशंसा करना। यहाँ passage में बात की जा रही है उन लोगों की जिन्होंने लोगों की ज़िन्दगी बचाने और अच्छे विचारों को फैलाने में योगदान दिया है, इसलिए उन्हें सम्मान देने के लिए "salute" सही है। Onerous का अर्थ है कठिन या बोझिल, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं है। Berate का अर्थ है कड़ी आलोचना करना, जो यहाँ सही नहीं होगा क्योंकि आलोचना के बारे में नहीं कहा गया है। Terminate का अर्थ है समाप्त करना, जो कि यहाँ उन लोगों के योगदान को सम्मानित करने के सन्दर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता।

Salute is the correct choice because it means to honor or show respect. In this passage, it talks about honoring people who have contributed to saving lives and spreading good thoughts, so "salute" is appropriate. Onerous means burdensome, which doesn't fit in this context. Berate means to criticize harshly, which isn't suitable as the passage isn't about criticism.

Terminate means to end, which doesn't align with the idea of honoring someone's contributions.

25. B) **'Spreading'** का use correct होगा क्योंकि 'spreading' का अर्थ होता है फैलाना या प्रचार करना। यहाँ sentence में बात की जा रही है उन लोगों की जिन्होंने अच्छे विचार फैलाने और लोगों की जिंदगियाँ बचाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है। इसलिए 'spreading' सही विकल्प है। जबकि 'stagnating' का अर्थ है ठहरना, 'implicating' का अर्थ है फंसाना, और 'impeding' का अर्थ है बाधा डालना, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होते।

- **'Spreading'** will be used because it means to propagate or disseminate. In this sentence, it refers to those people who have made a significant contribution to spreading good thoughts and saving people's lives, making 'spreading' the most appropriate choice. Whereas 'stagnating' means to become stagnant or remain still, 'implicating' means to involve in a crime, and 'impeding' means to obstruct, which don't fit in this context.



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