

Troubled waters: On India, Sri Lanka and the fisheries dispute

India and Sri Lanka must **facilitate** discussions among their fishermen

In the latest chapter of the **long-standing** fisheries dispute in the Palk Bay region, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district on February 8 for **alleged poaching** in waters north of Mannar. Two **trawlers** were also **impounded**. On January 27, the Navy fired at an Indian boat near Delft Island, injuring two fishermen. With these arrests, the total number of Indian fishermen **detained** this year has risen to 77. Just last week, a Sri Lankan court released nine fishermen from Karaikal, Puducherry, but one other person received a six-month prison sentence. Additionally, Sri Lankan courts have been **imposing hefty** fines, **complicating** their release. **Government data** over the past **decade**, based on responses in Parliament, **show** that in 2024, the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka crossed the 500-mark for the first time in 10 years (528). There were 787 arrests in 2014.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on February 3, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that 97 fishermen and 216 fishing boats were still under the custody of Sri Lanka. **Unlike** in the past, when they were quickly released, recent years have seen rising **convictions** for violations of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and unlawful fishing. While Tamil Nadu and Puducherry fishermen often cross the IMBL, their **counterparts** in Sri Lanka's Tamil-speaking Northern Province, who are still recovering from the civil war, **oppose** their fishing methods, particularly **ecologically destructive bottom trawling**. Northern Sri Lankan fishermen are **seeking a sustainable** solution that protects their waters from **over-exploitative** fishing. Indian fishermen have repeatedly sought a fresh round of talks with their Sri Lankan counterparts, with the last such meeting having **taken place** in November 2016. The issue was also raised in the most recent Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo last October. However, the Anura Kumara Dissanayake-led Sri Lankan government appears **reluctant to negotiate**. New Delhi and Colombo must recognise that a fresh approach is required to break the **deadlock** rather than continuing with a **business-as-usual** mindset. Unlike the cases of Indian fishermen **detained** in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, the arrests in Sri Lanka are significantly higher. New Delhi must introduce **incentives** to encourage Palk Bay fishermen to move away from trawling. While this shift will take time, both governments must facilitate immediate discussions between their fishing communities to find **interim** solutions. It is only through **proactive diplomacy** and **sustainable** fishing policies that this ongoing conflict can be **addressed** effectively.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Troubled waters** (phrase) – A situation of difficulty, conflict, or uncertainty. मुश्किल हालात
2. **Facilitate** (verb) – Enable, Assist, Ease, Promote, Support सुगम बनाना
3. **Long-standing** (adjective) – Enduring, Persistent, Long-lasting, Established, Chronic लंबे समय से चला आ रहा
4. **Alleged** (adjective) – Supposed, Claimed, Reported, Purported, Accused कथित
5. **Poaching** (noun) – Illegal hunting, Trespassing, Stealing, Unlawful fishing, Theft अवैध शिकार
6. **Trawler** (noun) – Fishing boat, Vessel, Ship, Dinghy, Craft मछली पकड़ने की नाव
7. **Impounded** (adjective) – Confiscated, Seized, Taken, Held, Detained जब्त किया हुआ
8. **Detain** (verb) – Arrest, Hold, Confine, Apprehend, Restrain हिरासत में लेना
9. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, Levy, Apply, Inflict, Introduce थोपना
10. **Hefty** (adjective) – Large, Substantial, Heavy, Considerable, Significant भारी
11. **Complicate** (verb) – Confuse, Entangle, Aggravate, Obstruct, Muddle जटिल बनाना
12. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
13. **Unlike** (preposition) – Different from, Contrary to, In contrast to, Distinct from, Opposed to के विपरीत
14. **Conviction** (noun) – Verdict, Judgment, Sentence, Ruling, Decision दोषसिद्धि
15. **Counterpart** (noun) – Equivalent, Peer, Match, Colleague, Partner समकक्ष
16. **Ecologically** (adverb) – Environmentally, Naturally, Sustainably, Greenly, Biologically पारिस्थितिक रूप से
17. **Destructive** (adjective) – Harmful, Damaging, Devastating, Ruinous, Catastrophic विनाशकारी
18. **Bottom trawling** (noun) – Deep-sea fishing, Dagnet fishing, Net fishing, Seabed fishing, Trawl fishing समुद्र तल मछली पकड़ना
19. **Seek** (verb) – Search, Pursue, Request, Aim, Strive तलाश करना
20. **Sustainable** (adjective) – Eco-friendly, Renewable, Viable, Enduring, Maintainable टिकाऊ
21. **Over-exploitative** (adjective) – Excessive, Unsustainable, Greedy, Depleting, Exploitative अत्यधिक दोहन करने वाला

22. **Take place** (phrase) – To happen or occur. घटित होना
23. **Reluctant** (adjective) – Hesitant, Unwilling, Resistant, Disinclined, Cautious अनिच्छुक
24. **Negotiate** (verb) – Discuss, Bargain, Mediate, Confer, Settle बातचीत करना
25. **Deadlock** (noun) – Stalemate, Impasse, Standstill, Gridlock, Standoff गतिरोध
26. **Business-as-usual** (adjective) – Routine, Normal, Standard, Regular, Typical हमेशा की तरह
27. **Detain** (verb) – Arrest, Hold, Confine, Apprehend, Restrain हिरासत में लेना
28. **Incentive** (noun) – Motivation, Encouragement, Stimulus, Reward, Spur प्रोत्साहन
29. **Interim** (adjective) – Temporary, Provisional, Transitional, Short-term, Stopgap अंतरिम
30. **Proactive** (adjective) – Active, Initiative, Forward-looking, Preventive, Dynamic सक्रिय
31. **Diplomacy** (noun) – Negotiation, Statesmanship, Tact, Mediation, Dialogue कूटनीति
32. **Sustainable** (adjective) – Eco-friendly, Renewable, Viable, Enduring, Maintainable टिकाऊ
33. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, Handle, Resolve, Confront, Manage सुलझाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Recent Arrests:** On February 8, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 14 Indian fishermen and impounded two trawlers for alleged poaching in Sri Lankan waters.
2. **Violence and Injuries:** On January 27, the Sri Lankan Navy fired at an Indian boat, injuring two fishermen near Delft Island.
3. **Rising Detentions:** In 2024, the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka crossed 500 for the first time in a decade, with 528 arrests so far.
4. **Historical Context:** Arrests peaked at 787 in 2014, but recent years have seen a resurgence in detentions and stricter penalties.
5. **Current Custody:** As of February 3, 97 Indian fishermen and 216 fishing boats remain in Sri Lankan custody.
6. **Stricter Convictions:** Unlike earlier quick releases, recent years have seen increased convictions and hefty fines for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).
7. **Tamil Nadu's Concerns:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has urged External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to address the issue, highlighting the plight of detained fishermen.
8. **Fishing Methods Conflict:** Indian fishermen often use bottom trawling, which is ecologically destructive and opposed by Sri Lankan Tamil-speaking fishermen in the Northern Province.
9. **Sri Lankan Fishermen's Plight:** Northern Sri Lankan fishermen, still recovering from the civil war, seek sustainable fishing practices to protect their waters.
10. **Call for Talks:** Indian fishermen have repeatedly requested fresh talks with Sri Lankan counterparts, with the last meeting held in November 2016.
11. **Joint Working Group:** The issue was discussed in the October 2023 Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo, but no resolution was reached.
12. **Sri Lanka's Reluctance:** The Sri Lankan government, led by Anura Kumara Disanayake, appears unwilling to engage in negotiations.
13. **Need for Fresh Approach:** Both India and Sri Lanka must move beyond a business-as-usual mindset to resolve the deadlock.
14. **Incentives for Change:** New Delhi should incentivize Indian fishermen to transition away from trawling to more sustainable fishing practices.
15. **Proactive Diplomacy:** Immediate discussions between fishing communities and sustainable policies are essential to address the conflict effectively.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

- What is the tone of the passage?**
 - Alarmist
 - Sarcastic
 - Critical yet solution-oriented
 - Humorous
- Based on government data over the past decade, in which year did the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka cross the 500-mark for the first time in 10 years?**
 - 2022
 - 2023
 - 2024
 - 2015
- Fill in the blank: The Sri Lankan courts have been imposing _____, complicating the release of Indian fishermen.**
 - hefty fines
 - travel restrictions
 - permanent bans
 - reduced sentences
- What can be inferred about the primary cause of tensions between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen?**
 - The Indian fishermen are intentionally violating international laws.
 - Sri Lankan fishermen are unwilling to cooperate with their Indian counterparts.
 - The dispute arises due to ecological concerns and differences in fishing methods.
 - India does not take any action to resolve the dispute.
- Why is the Sri Lankan government reluctant to negotiate with India on the fisheries dispute?**
 - They fear losing control over their territorial waters.
 - They believe previous negotiations have not resulted in meaningful change.
 - They are waiting for international intervention.
 - They prioritize economic agreements over fishing disputes.
- Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

She recieved a beautiful surprise from her partner.

 - Surprise
 - Partner
 - Beautiful
 - Received
- Change the following sentence into positive degree.**

Mercury is the smallest planet in the solar system

 - Mercury is smaller than any other planet in the solar system.
 - The most smallest planet in the solar system is mercury.

- C. Mercury is the smallest planet than any other one.
D. No other planet is as small as Mercury in the Solar System
8. **Select the sentence that has a grammatical error**
A. She asked an easy question, and I took an hour to crack it.
B. After a tiring day, I had a cup of coffee with Sudhir.
C. She saw an excellent episode of the series.
D. There is a man sitting beside cat
9. **Select the most appropriate option with the correct usage of the preposition to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
World Press Freedom Day will be dedicated to the importance of journalism and freedom in expression in the context of the current global environmental crisis.
A. freedom on expression
B. freedom at expression
C. freedom from expression
D. freedom of expression
10. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
Dolphins are named among the intelligent animals on earth
A. intelligentest
B. more intelligent
C. most intelligent
D. intelligenter
11. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
The allowance that is given by a husband to his wife on separation
A. Affianced
B. Matrimonial
C. Dowry
D. Alimony
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The teacher asked us to _____ our homework by tomorrow
A. completes
B. completed
C. completing
D. complete
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The library books were long _____, their pages bearing the weight of the passage of time.
A. overdate
B. overdue
C. overdrew
D. overdo

14. **The bat flew silently through the night, searching for insects to eat. The bat in this context refers to _____.**
- A. mammal known for nocturnal flight and insect consumption
 - B. a measurement unit in digital information systems
 - C. a wooden tool utilised in sports like baseball or cricket
 - D. the act of delivering a forceful strike or hit
15. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**
Thousands of people were killed by the train accident that took place last Wednesday
- A. killed in
 - B. killed of
 - C. killed from
 - D. killed to
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
I will try to _____ because he is a good friend of mine
- A. show him the door
 - B. stop him in his tracks
 - C. avoid him like the plague
 - D. get him off the hook
17. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**
Samira is a lady who needs extrinsic motivation and will not work on her own.
- A. Amicable
 - B. Intriguing
 - C. Outward
 - D. Adventurous
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
He was not able to answer as the question was ambiguous.
- A. Clear
 - B. Unsuitable
 - C. Deep
 - D. Superficial
19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Caught in a time warp
- A. To make extra effort
 - B. To remain unchanged from a time in the past
 - C. To be extremely happy
 - D. To avoid talking about what's important
20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**
In the beauty contest, Parul won the award for being the beautiful one.
- A. less beautiful

- B. more beautiful
- C. least beautiful
- D. most beautiful

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.

Forests provide essential ecosystem services (1)_____ benefit both the environment and human society. One crucial service is carbon sequestration, as forests absorb and store large amounts of carbon dioxide, helping mitigate climate change. Additionally, forests regulate water cycles (2)_____ influencing precipitation patterns and maintaining water quality. (3)_____, forests offer recreational opportunities, cultural significance, and economic benefits through timber production and (4)_____. Thus, preserving and sustainably managing forests is imperative for maintaining these (5)_____ ecosystem services.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. that
 - B. then
 - C. this
 - D. than
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. about
 - B. by
 - C. off
 - D. between
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. As long as
 - B. Though
 - C. Whatever
 - D. Moreover
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. industrialisation
 - B. deforestation
 - C. ecotourism
 - D. degradation
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. vitalise
 - B. vitality
 - C. vital
 - D. vitally

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) Critical yet solution-oriented

The passage highlights shortcomings in the current approach (critical) and emphasizes the need for new strategies and direct discussions (solution-oriented).

A: The passage does express concern, but it does not resort to sensational or panic-driven language.

B: There is no mocking or ironic tone in the passage; it remains serious and factual.

D: The topic is a serious international dispute; there is no attempt at humor.

2. C) 2024

The passage states, "Government data over the past decade, based on responses in Parliament, show that in 2024, the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka crossed the 500-mark for the first time in 10 years (528)."

A. 2022 – The passage does not mention any data about 2022 crossing the 500-mark.

B. 2023 – There is no mention of 2023 reaching this milestone.

D. 2015 – The only other year mentioned in the passage with high arrests was 2014 (787), not 2015.

3. A) hefty fines

The passage states, "Additionally, Sri Lankan courts have been imposing hefty fines, complicating their release." This confirms that "hefty fines" is the correct answer.

A. The passage does not mention any travel restrictions being imposed.

C. There is no mention of permanent bans in the passage.

D. The passage states that one fisherman received a six-month prison sentence, which indicates punishment rather than a reduced sentence.

4. C) The dispute arises due to ecological concerns and differences in fishing methods.

The passage highlights that Sri Lankan fishermen oppose the ecologically destructive bottom trawling used by Indian fishermen. The issue is not just about legal boundaries but also about the sustainability of marine resources.

A (Incorrect): The passage does not state that Indian fishermen are intentionally violating laws; it acknowledges that they cross the IMBL, but their main concern is livelihood, not deliberate law-breaking.

B (Incorrect): The passage mentions that Sri Lankan fishermen seek a sustainable solution, not that they are entirely unwilling to cooperate. Their concerns are environmental rather than purely political.

D (Incorrect): India has been involved in multiple discussions and has raised the issue in meetings, indicating active efforts rather than inaction.

5. **B) They believe previous negotiations have not resulted in meaningful change.**

The passage states that despite previous discussions (the last major meeting in 2016 and the recent Joint Working Group meeting in October), there has been no resolution, leading to reluctance from the Sri Lankan side to engage in further negotiations.

A (Incorrect): The passage does not suggest that Sri Lanka fears losing control over its waters; rather, their main concern is over-exploitative fishing by Indian trawlers.

C (Incorrect): There is no mention in the passage of Sri Lanka waiting for international intervention. The focus is on bilateral discussions.

D (Incorrect): The passage does not indicate that Sri Lanka is prioritizing economic agreements over the fishing dispute; it emphasizes the lack of resolution in past discussions as a key reason for reluctance.

6. D) The incorrect spelling in the sentence is '**Recieved**', which should be correctly spelled as '**Received**'. It means "to be given, presented with, or paid something" प्राप्त करना.

7. D) **No other planet is as small as Mercury in the Solar System**

'No other planet is as small as Mercury' का use होगा क्योंकि Positive Degree में तुलना करते समय "No other" के साथ "as + adjective + as" का प्रयोग होता है और वाक्य का अर्थ भी वही रहता है; जैसे—
No other city is as beautiful as Jaipur.

'No other planet is as small as Mercury' will be used because, in the Positive Degree, "No other" is used with "as + adjective + as" for comparison, and the meaning of the sentence remains the same; Like— No other city is as beautiful as Jaipur.

8. D) '**There is a man sitting beside cat**' में "cat" के पहले "the" का प्रयोग होना चाहिए, क्योंकि किसी विशेष वस्तु का उल्लेख करने के लिए "the" का उपयोग होता है। 'cat' एक countable noun है और इसके पहले article का प्रयोग आवश्यक है; जैसे— There is a man sitting beside the cat.

In "There is a man sitting beside cat", the article "the" is needed before "cat" because we are referring to a specific object. So, the correct sentence should be— "There is a man sitting beside the cat."

9. D) 'freedom in expression' के बदले 'freedom of expression' का use होगा क्योंकि 'freedom of expression' is standard phrase है जिसका अर्थ है 'अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता'; जैसे— Everyone has the right to freedom of expression.

'freedom of expression' will be used instead of 'freedom in expression' because 'freedom of expression' is a standard phrase meaning 'the right to express one's opinions'; Like— Everyone has the right to freedom of expression.

10. C) 'most intelligent' के बदले 'most intelligent' का प्रयोग सही रहेगा क्योंकि 'intelligent' एक polysyllabic adjective है और जब इसकी superlative तुलना की जाती है, तो 'most' का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— Dolphins are named among the most intelligent animals on earth.

'most intelligent' will be used because 'intelligent' is a polysyllabic adjective, and for its superlative form, 'most' is used; Like— Dolphins are named among the most intelligent animals on earth.

11. D) **Alimony** (noun) – The allowance that is given by a husband to his wife on separation. भरण-पोषण

- **Affianced** (adjective) – Engaged to be married. मंगेतर
- **Matrimonial** (adjective) – Relating to marriage or the relationship between husband and wife. वैवाहिक
- **Dowry** (noun) – Property or money brought by a bride to her husband on their marriage. दहेज

12. D) '**Complete**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर teacher ने कहा है कि हमें homework कल तक पूरा करना है, जो कि एक सामान्य आदेश या निर्देश है। 'Complete' यहाँ verb की base form है, जो इस context में सही है।

वहीं, 'Completes' का अर्थ है 'वह पूर्ण करता है', जो subject के लिए सही नहीं है, 'Completed' past tense है, जो यहाँ समय के संदर्भ में ठीक नहीं है, और 'Completing' verb का gerund form है, जो भी इस context में सही नहीं है।

'**Complete**' will be used because the teacher is giving a general instruction to complete the homework by tomorrow. 'Complete' is the base form of the verb, making it the correct choice here. 'Completes' refers to a third-person singular action, 'Completed' is past tense, which doesn't match the context, and 'Completing' is the gerund form, which doesn't fit here.

13. B) '**Overdue**' का use होगा क्योंकि "overdue" का अर्थ होता है जो समय पर नहीं हुआ हो, जैसे किसी चीज़ का समय पूरा हो चुका हो। यहाँ पर यह संदर्भ पुस्तकें हैं जो समय पर नहीं लौटाई गईं और उनका पृष्ठ समय की दबाव को सहन कर रहा है, इसलिए 'overdue' सही है। जबकि 'Overdate' का कोई अर्थ नहीं है, 'Overdrew' का अर्थ है अधिक पैसे खींचना, और 'Overdo' का अर्थ है अधिक करना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

'**Overdue**' will be used because it means something that is past its expected time, like books that were not returned on time, and their pages are bearing the weight of time. In this context,

'overdue' fits best. 'Overdate' has no meaning, 'Overdrew' means to take out more money than is available, and 'Overdo' means to do something excessively, which is not applicable here.

14. A) '**mammal known for nocturnal flight and insect consumption**' का use होगा क्योंकि "bat" का अर्थ एक स्तनधारी प्राणी होता है जो रात में उड़ता है और कीड़े खाता है। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि "The bat flew silently through the night, searching for insects to eat," जो इस प्राणी के संदर्भ में है।

mammal known for nocturnal flight and insect consumption' will be used because the word "bat" refers to a mammal that flies at night and feeds on insects. The sentence mentions "The bat flew silently through the night, searching for insects to eat," which clearly refers to the animal, making A the correct choice.

15. A) killed by' के बदले '**killed in**' का use होगा क्योंकि किसी दुर्घटना या घटना में मारे जाने पर 'in' का प्रयोग होता है। 'by' का प्रयोग किसी व्यक्ति या कारण से मारे जाने पर होता है। यहां पर दुर्घटना का संदर्भ है, अतः 'in' सही होगा

'killed in' will be used instead of 'killed by' because when referring to a death caused by an event or accident, we use 'in'. 'By' is used when referring to death caused by a person or a specific cause. Since the context refers to an accident, 'in' is the correct preposition.

16. D) **Get him off the hook** (phrase)- To free someone from blame, responsibility, or difficulty किसी को दोष, ज़िम्मेदारी, या कठिनाई से मुक्त कर देना।

When someone is "off the hook," it means they are no longer responsible for a problem or trouble they were previously involved in.

17. C) **Extrinsic** (adjective) – External, coming from outside, not inherent. बाहरी, बाह्य

Synonym: Outward (adjective) – Directed or moving toward the outside; external. बाहरी

- **Amicable** (adjective) – Friendly, peaceable. दोस्ताना
- **Intriguing** (adjective) – Arousing curiosity or interest; fascinating. दिलचस्प
- **Adventurous** (adjective) – Willing to take risks or try out new things; daring. साहसी

18. A) **Ambiguous** (adjective) – Unclear, open to more than one interpretation, vague, confusing, uncertain. अस्पष्ट

Antonym: Clear (adjective) – Easy to understand, free from confusion, transparent, definite. स्पष्ट

- **Unsuitable** (adjective) – Not appropriate or fitting for a particular purpose, improper. अनुपयुक्त
- **Deep** (adjective) – Having a great depth, profound, intense. गहरा
- **Superficial** (adjective) – Shallow, lacking depth or thoroughness, surface-level. सतही

19. B) **Caught in a time warp** (idiom) – To remain unchanged from a time in the past
 Stuck in an outdated or old-fashioned way of thinking, living, or behaving, as if time has not moved forward. (पुरानी या पारंपरिक सोच, जीवनशैली, या व्यवहार में फँसा हुआ, जैसे समय आगे नहीं बढ़ा हो।)
20. 'D) 'beautiful' के बदले '**most beautiful**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर 'award' की बात की जा रही है, जो कि सर्वोत्तम का संकेत करता है, और comparative degree (जैसे 'more beautiful') और superlative degree (जैसे 'most beautiful') में फर्क होता है। इस मामले में, हम superlative degree का प्रयोग करेंगे, क्योंकि प्रतियोगिता में किसी एक व्यक्ति को सबसे सुंदर घोषित किया गया है।
 '**most beautiful**' will be used instead of 'beautiful' because the sentence talks about the award, which refers to the best or the highest in comparison. In this case, we will use the superlative degree 'most beautiful,' as the contest declares one person to be the most beautiful
21. A) **'That'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह एक relative pronoun है जो किसी चीज़ को जोड़ता है, जैसा कि यहाँ 'essential ecosystem services' के बारे में बात हो रही है जो 'benefit both the environment and human society' को स्पष्ट रूप से जोड़ता है। 'Then' का अर्थ है उस समय, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'This' का अर्थ है यह, लेकिन यहाँ एक linking शब्द की आवश्यकता है, 'Than' का उपयोग तुलना करने के लिए होता है, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं है।
 'That' is used because it is a relative pronoun that connects the clause describing "essential ecosystem services" to the benefit they provide to both the environment and human society. 'Then' means at that time, which does not fit in this context. 'This' means referring to something close, but here, a linking word is needed, and 'that' works better. 'Than' is used for comparisons, which is not appropriate in this context.
22. B) 'By' का use होगा क्योंकि "by" यह दर्शाता है कि जल चक्र का विनियमन किसी माध्यम (forests) के द्वारा किया जाता है। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि वन वर्षा के पैटर्न को प्रभावित करते हैं और जल की गुणवत्ता बनाए रखते हैं, इसलिए 'by' सही विकल्प है। जबकि 'about' का अर्थ होता है "के बारे में", जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Off' का अर्थ होता है "अलग या दूर", जो जल चक्र के संदर्भ में गलत होगा। 'Between' का अर्थ होता है "दो या अधिक चीज़ों के बीच", लेकिन यहां जल चक्र के विभिन्न घटकों के बीच संबंध की बात नहीं हो रही है, इसलिए यह भी गलत है।
 'By' will be used because it indicates the means through which an action occurs. The sentence states that forests regulate water cycles by influencing precipitation patterns and maintaining water quality, making 'by' the correct choice. Whereas, 'About' means "regarding," which does not fit the context. 'Off' means "away from," which does not relate to the regulation of water

cycles. 'Between' means "in the space separating two things," but the sentence does not discuss a direct comparison between two entities, so it is incorrect.

23. D) **Moreover**' का use यहाँ सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है 'इसके अतिरिक्त' और यह एक विचार को जोड़ने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ पर वनों के दूसरे लाभ के बारे में बताया जा रहा है, जैसे कि मनोरंजन, सांस्कृतिक महत्व और आर्थिक लाभ, इसलिए 'Moreover' का use उपयुक्त है। 'As long as' का अर्थ है 'जब तक', जो यहाँ के संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Though' का अर्थ है 'हालाँकि', जो इस स्थान पर कोई विरोध या तुलना नहीं देता, इसलिए गलत है। 'Whatever' का अर्थ है 'जो भी', जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह एक सामान्य बात को व्यक्त करता है, जबकि यहाँ हम एक अतिरिक्त लाभ की बात कर रहे हैं।

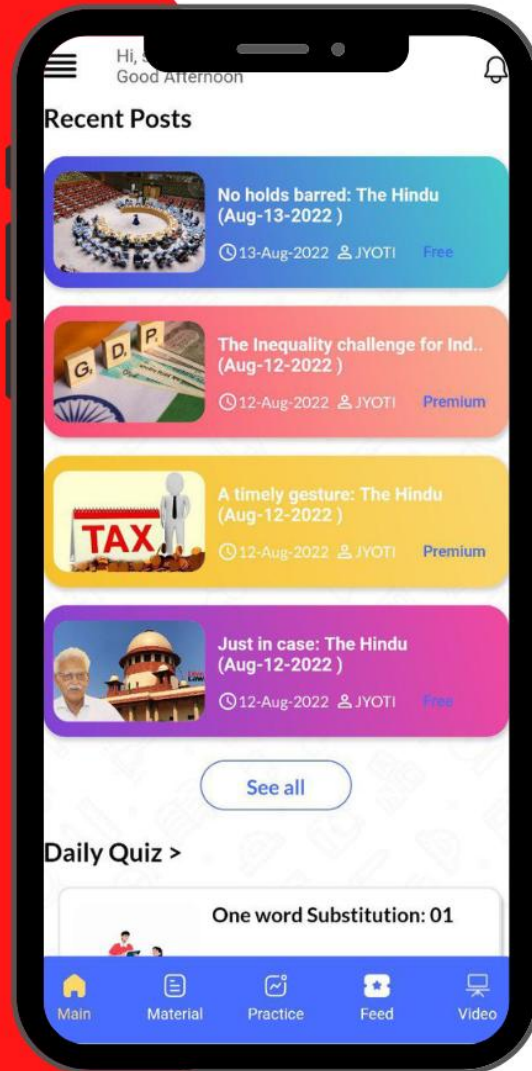
'**Moreover**' is the correct choice because it means "in addition" or "furthermore," and it is used to add another point to the idea. In the sentence, it introduces additional benefits of forests like recreational opportunities, cultural significance, and economic benefits, making 'Moreover' the most suitable option. 'As long as' means "until" or "while," which doesn't fit the context of adding another benefit. 'Though' means "however," which implies contrast or opposition, but there is no contrast here, so it's incorrect. 'Whatever' means "anything" or "everything," which doesn't align with the structure of the sentence and would make the meaning unclear.

24. C) **Ecotourism**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'ecotourism' का अर्थ होता है पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूक यात्रा, जिसमें पर्यावरण संरक्षण और समुदायों को लाभ पहुँचाने के लिए यात्रा की जाती है। इस वाक्य में यह बताया जा रहा है कि जंगल आर्थिक लाभ प्रदान करते हैं, जिसमें 'ecotourism' एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है। 'Industrialisation' का मतलब है औद्योगिकीकरण, जो यहां संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यह जंगलों के पर्यावरणीय लाभ के साथ मेल नहीं खाता। 'Deforestation' का अर्थ है जंगलों की कटाई, जो न केवल पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंचाती है बल्कि इसका उपयोग इस वाक्य में नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि यह सकारात्मक संदर्भ में नहीं है। 'Degradation' का अर्थ है गिरावट या नष्ट होना, जो भी इस संदर्भ में अनुपयुक्त है क्योंकि यह जंगलों के संरक्षण के संदर्भ में नकारात्मक है।

'**Ecotourism**' will be used because it refers to environmentally responsible travel that helps preserve the environment and benefits local communities. In this sentence, it highlights that forests provide economic benefits through timber production and ecotourism. 'Industrialisation' refers to the process of industrial development, which doesn't align with the environmental context here. 'Deforestation' refers to the destruction of forests, which is the opposite of the intended meaning in the sentence. 'Degradation' means deterioration or decline, which would not fit in this context as it has a negative connotation.

25. C) 'Vital' का use होगा क्योंकि "vital" का अर्थ होता है अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण, जो sentence में आवश्यक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवाओं के महत्व को व्यक्त करता है। यहां पर 'ecosystem services' का महत्व बताया जा रहा है, इसलिए 'vital' सही option है। 'Vitalise' का अर्थ होता है जीवन देना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Vitality' का अर्थ है जीवन शक्ति, जो यहाँ पर फिट नहीं है। 'Vitally' एक adverb है, जिसका अर्थ है अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण ढंग से, जो यहाँ नहीं आ सकता

'Vital' will be used because it means extremely important, which appropriately conveys the importance of ecosystem services in the sentence. 'Vitalise' means to give life, which doesn't fit the context here. 'Vitality' means life force, which doesn't work in this context. 'Vitally' is an adverb meaning in an extremely important manner, which is incorrect here



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