

The real cost of pollution? Polluters must foot the bill, says Supreme Court

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court **reaffirmed** the **polluter** pays principle, **restoring to** central and state pollution control boards the authority to **levy compensatory** and **restitutive** charges on entities responsible for environmental damage. In doing so, it **overturned** a 2012 Delhi High Court **ruling** that had **curtailed** these powers.

Crucially, the **ruling draws a clear line** between fines for violating norms and the damages polluters must pay - both for restoring the environment and **compensating** those who have suffered losses.

Sections 33A and 31A of the water and air Acts **provide** regulators with legal **space** to **impose** such **levies**. Yet, for years, lack of clarity and **conflicting** judgments **hamstrung** them, leaving the question of who pays, and how much, to be settled by courts on a case-by-case basis.

The recent **apex court ruling** also **empowers** regulators to demand bank guarantees from entities against **potential** environmental damage, **signalling** that **the cost** of harming the environment **has gone up**.

The next challenge is to ensure penalties are imposed in a fair, **transparent** and **non-arbitrary** manner, **backed** by procedural **certainty** and free of **bureaucratic** delays. For this to succeed, regulators must build both institutional and technical capacity while also **strengthening enforcement** on the ground and **coordinating** across **jurisdictions**.



Additionally, GoI must notify rules and regulations, **outline robust** methods to **assess** environmental damage and **establish a transparent** system for **determining** the **quantum** of **compensation**. Only then can the **principle** that polluters must pay move beyond **lofty** judicial **reaffirmation** to effective implementation, ensuring.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Space** (noun) – Freedom, leeway, scope, गुंजाइश
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Foot the bill** (phrase) – pay, bear the cost, pick up the tab, cover expenses, shoulder the expense लागत उठाना
2. **Reaffirm** (verb) – restate, reiterate, confirm, reassert, uphold पुनः पुष्टि करना
3. **Polluter** (noun) – contaminator, emitter, offender, violator, polluting entity प्रदूषक
4. **Restore** (verb) – reinstate, reestablish, reinstitute, return, give back पुनः स्थापित करना
5. **Levy** (verb) – impose, assess, charge, exact, collect कर/शुल्क लगाना
6. **Compensatory** (adjective) – remedial, offsetting, indemnifying, restorative, make-good क्षतिपूरक
7. **Restitutive** (adjective) – restorative, reparative, compensatory, indemnifying, redressive पुनर्स्थापनात्मक
8. **Overtake** (verb) – reverse, quash, annul, invalidate, set aside निरस्त करना
9. **Ruling** (noun) – judgment, decision, order, decree, verdict निर्णय
10. **Curtail** (verb) – reduce, restrict, limit, truncate, clip सीमित करना
11. **Crucially** (adverb) – importantly, vitally, essentially, decisively, pivotally निर्णायक रूप से
12. **Ruling** (noun) – judgment, determination, pronouncement, adjudication, directive फैसला
13. **Draw a clear line** (phrase) – distinguish, demarcate, differentiate, set boundaries, make a clear distinction स्पष्ट सीमा निर्धारित करना
14. **Compensate** (verb) – indemnify, recompense, redress, make amends, make whole क्षतिपूर्ति करना
15. **Impose** (verb) – enforce, levy, institute, decree, mandate थोपना
16. **Levy** (noun) – duty, charge, tax, impost, assessment कर/शुल्क
17. **Conflict** (verb) – clash, contradict, collide, jar, be at odds विरोध करना
18. **Hamstring** (verb) – severely restrict the efficiency or effectiveness of. रोकना
19. **Apex court** (noun) – supreme court, top court, highest court, court of last resort, constitutional court सर्वोच्च न्यायालय
20. **Ruling** (noun) – order, directive, edict, fiat, ruling-in-law आदेश

21. **Empower** (verb) – authorize, enable, vest (with), mandate, entrust अधिकार देना
22. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, prospective, likely, latent, conceivable संभावित
23. **Signal** (verb) – indicate, signify, herald, flag, mark संकेत देना
24. **Go up** (phrasal verb) – rise, increase, escalate, climb, surge बढ़ना
25. **Transparent** (adjective) – clear, open, accountable, see-through, unambiguous पारदर्शी
26. **Non-arbitrary** (adjective) – principled, rule-based, objective, reasoned, consistent गैर-मनमाना
27. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, back up, underwrite, champion समर्थन करना
28. **Certainty** (noun) – surety, confidence, definiteness, assurance, inevitability निश्चितता
29. **Bureaucratic** (adjective) – administrative, procedural, red-tape-laden, officious, rule-bound नौकरशाही-संबंधी
30. **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, bolster, fortify, consolidate, toughen सुदृढ़ करना
31. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, execution, policing, compliance action, coercive action प्रवर्तन
32. **Coordinate** (verb) – align, synchronize, harmonize, integrate, orchestrate समन्वित करना
33. **Jurisdiction** (noun) – authority, remit, purview, competence, legal domain अधिकार-क्षेत्र
34. **Outline** (verb) – sketch, delineate, set out, map out, summarize रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत करना
35. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, sturdy, resilient, rigorous, solid मज़बूत
36. **Assess** (verb) – evaluate, appraise, gauge, estimate, determine आकलन करना
37. **Establish** (verb) – set up, institute, create, constitute, found स्थापित करना
38. **Transparent** (adjective) – frank, open-book, visible, plain, straightforward पारदर्शी
39. **Determine** (verb) – decide, ascertain, fix, set, adjudge निर्धारित करना
40. **Quantum** (noun) – amount, sum, magnitude, measure, extent मात्रा

41. **Compensation** (noun) – damages, recompense, indemnity, reparation, restitution क्षतिपूर्ति

42. **Principle** (noun) – It refers to the basic rule or doctrine that those who cause pollution must bear the cost of managing it.

43. **Lofty** (adjective) – high-minded, elevated, idealistic, noble, grandiose उच्च

44. **Reaffirmation** (noun) – restatement, confirmation, reassertion, endorsement, reiteration पुनर्पुष्टि

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court has reaffirmed the polluter pays principle this month.
2. The ruling restores powers of central and state pollution control boards to levy compensatory and restitutive charges.
3. These powers were earlier curtailed by a 2012 Delhi High Court judgment.
4. The Court clarified the difference between fines for violating norms and damages for environmental restoration and victim compensation.
5. Sections 33A of the Water Act and 31A of the Air Act provide legal basis for such levies.
6. Despite these provisions, regulators faced confusion and conflicting judgments for years.
7. The Supreme Court ruling ends uncertainty, ensuring accountability for polluters.
8. Regulators can now also demand bank guarantees against potential environmental damage.
9. This move raises the financial cost of harming the environment.
10. The key challenge is to impose penalties in a fair, transparent, and non-arbitrary manner.
11. Implementation must avoid bureaucratic delays and ensure procedural certainty.
12. Regulators need to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for effective enforcement.
13. Coordination across jurisdictions is essential for consistent regulation.
14. The Government of India must notify rules, create methods to assess damage, and set transparent compensation systems.
15. Only with these measures can the polluter pays principle move from judicial affirmation to practical enforcement.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following is the best inference about why the Supreme Court explicitly separated “fines for violating norms” from “damages to restore and compensate”?**
 - A. To decouple punishment from restoration so that regulators can both deter misconduct and fund remediation/compensation effectively
 - B. To increase non-tax revenue for governments through higher collections
 - C. To reduce bureaucratic delays by eliminating judicial oversight entirely
 - D. To centralise all environmental decision-making under the Union government
2. **Fill the blank to maintain correct parallel structure with “must build ... capacity” in the sentence:**

“For this to succeed, regulators must build both institutional and technical capacity while also _____ enforcement on the ground and coordinating across jurisdictions.”

 - A. strengthen
 - B. strengthening
 - C. to strengthen
 - D. having strengthened
3. **According to the passage, which statutory provisions empower regulators to impose such levies?**
 - A. Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act
 - B. Section 31 of the Air Act and Section 33 of the Water Act
 - C. Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act and Section 21 of the Air Act
 - D. Section 33B of the Water Act and Section 31B of the Air Act
4. **Which option best captures both (i) the specific regulatory power that the Supreme Court ruling restores to pollution control boards and (ii) the conceptual distinction the ruling draws regarding monetary liabilities for environmental harm?**
 - A. It reaffirms the boards’ authority to levy compensatory and restitutive charges under Sections 33A (Water Act) and 31A (Air Act), and distinguishes fines for mere norm violations from damages payable both for environmental restoration and for compensating affected persons.
 - B. It reaffirms only the power to impose criminal penalties under general penal statutes, and treats fines and damages as a single category of deterrent payments without doctrinal separation.
 - C. It creates a new power to increase routine license fees and inspection charges, while holding that only Parliament—not courts—may distinguish penalties from damages.
 - D. It centralizes decision-making in the Union government by withdrawing state boards’ powers, and requires damages to be recovered only after criminal guilt is proven beyond reasonable doubt.
5. **Directions: Read the statement and choose the best option.**

Statement: The apex court’s decision primarily emphasizes punitive fines and explicitly rejects the use of bank guarantees as preventive instruments against potential environmental damage.

- A. True — because the ruling narrows regulators to ex post fines and forbids any ex ante financial assurance like bank guarantees.
- B. False — because the ruling not only reinstates compensatory/restitutive levies but also empowers regulators to demand bank guarantees against prospective harm, expanding—not shrinking—the toolkit.
- C. True — because bank guarantees are mentioned, if at all, merely as non-binding dicta that regulators cannot rely upon.
- D. Cannot be determined — because the passage is silent on preventive financial instruments such as bank guarantees.
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Straight and narrow
- A. Be excessively careful
- B. Honest and morally acceptable way of being
- C. Follow the straight path defined by society
- D. To not deviate from one's goal
7. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**
You must wait unless the manager arrives before making any announcements regarding the merger.
- A. wait unless the manager will arrive
- B. wait until the manager arrives
- C. wait until the manager will arrive
- D. No improvement
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
VAGUE
- A. Nebulous
- B. Explicit
- C. Evasive
- D. Tenuous
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Someone's ears are burning
- A. The feeling when someone thinks others are talking about them
- B. Being excessively jealous of others
- C. Being angry due to unfair criticism
- D. Itching to enter into an argument
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
The police was investigating the matter / when fresh evidence came to light / that suggested a wider conspiracy / involving several local officials.
- A. The police was investigating the matter
- B. when fresh evidence came to light
- C. that suggested a wider conspiracy
- D. involving several local officials
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

VERACITY

- A. Mendacity
- B. Rapacity
- C. Verity
- D. Voracity

12. In the following Question, two lists are given with the keywords mentioned. You are required to match List-I with List-II and Select the option that can be used as a correct one-word substitute for the word given in List I.

List-I

- A) Wrangle
- B) Wacky
- C) Codex
- D) Postscript

List-II (Meaning)

- 1. Additional piece of information added to the main text
- 2. Amusing and strange
- 3. Complicated and prolonged argument
- 4. Ancient manuscript/text

- A. A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
- B. A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2
- C. A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
- D. A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

13. 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. This results in 32% of global food production being discarded.
 - b. In a world where more than 700 million people suffer from hunger, this scale of waste is unacceptable.
 - c. Food loss and waste represent one of the most pressing challenges to sustainable global food systems.
 - d. According to the estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 13% of food produced globally is lost before it reaches the retail stage, while an additional 19% is wasted at the retail, food service, and household levels.
- A. d, b, a, c
 - B. c, a, b, d
 - C. a, b, c, d
 - D. c, d, a, b

14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

She suffered _____ pain because of the leg injury.

- A. hurting
- B. excruciating
- C. consuming
- D. protracting

15. Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.

- To swim** every day is good for health.
- A. Participle
 - B. Infinitive verb
 - C. Gerund
 - D. Adjective
16. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- There is many reports / indicating that climate change has already started affecting crop yields / across several states in the northern region, / leading to rising concerns among farmers.
- A. There is many reports
 - B. indicating that climate change has already started affecting crop yields
 - C. across several states in the northern region
 - D. leading to rising concerns among farmers
17. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
- VIA MEDIA
- A. Middle course
 - B. Hard line
 - C. Zero-sum
 - D. Extremity
18. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**
- When he heard the alarm, the worker immediately **stopped to operate the machine and rushed outside.**
- A. stopped to operating the machine and rushed outside
 - B. stopped operating of the machine and rushed outside
 - C. No improvement
 - D. stopped operating the machine and rushed outside
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- _____ intake of sugar can cause health problems.
- A. Access
 - B. Excess of
 - C. Excessive
 - D. Excessively
20. **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. Besides, it is also an occasion to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands in 1971.
 - B. World Wetland Day is celebrated on 2 February to raise awareness about the critical importance of wetlands.
 - C. Unfortunately, these valuable wetlands are disappearing three times faster than the forest areas.
 - D. The Convention upholds the wetlands as the world's most economically valuable ecosystems

- A. BADC
- B. DABC
- C. BCDA
- D. DCAB

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.

The stray dog population is _____1_____ in the country. If this is not acted upon with concrete plans, the number of dogs may _____2_____ the human population as there is no reliable head count as yet of stray dogs. The argument that animal welfare activists _____3_____, that _____4_____ the stray dog population will _____5_____ an increase in the rat population, is illogical. Cats are the major predators of rats. As birth control methods on dogs have not made much of an impact on the canine population, it is our bounden duty to protect human lives.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. atrophying
 - B. eviscerating
 - C. evolving
 - D. enervating
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. overwhelms
 - B. overwhelm
 - C. overwhelming
 - D. overwhelmed
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. Put forth
 - B. Put off
 - C. Put down
 - D. Put aside
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. curtail
 - B. curtailed
 - C. curtails
 - D. curtailing
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. confide in
 - B. lead to
 - C. dwell on
 - D. entrust with

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **To decouple punishment from restoration so that regulators can both deter misconduct and fund remediation/compensation effectively**

The passage stresses a “clear line” between punitive fines and restitutive/compensatory payments, aiming at deterrence and genuine environmental restoration. This implies a design that serves two distinct objectives—punishment and making victims/environment whole.

B: Revenue-raising isn’t stated or implied; focus is on accountability, deterrence, restoration.

C: Judicial oversight isn’t being “eliminated”; regulators’ powers are clarified/restored, with fair and transparent procedures still required.

D: Centralisation is not claimed; coordination across jurisdictions is urged, not exclusive Union control.

2. B) **strengthening**

“While also” typically takes a gerund (“-ing” form) to keep parallelism with the non-finite structure after “must build... while also ____”. Hence “strengthening” fits.

A (strengthen): Bare infinitive breaks parallelism after “while also”.

C (to strengthen): Infinitive form disrupts the gerund pattern set by “while also”.

D (having strengthened): Perfect participle implies prior completion, which the sentence does not intend.

3. A) **Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act**

The passage explicitly names Sections 33A and 31A (Water and Air Acts respectively).

B: Omits the crucial “A” subsections; not what the passage states.

C: Brings in the Environment (Protection) Act §5 and Air Act §21—not mentioned here.

D: Uses non-cited “B” subsections; the passage specifies 33A/31A, not 33B/31B.

4. A) **It reaffirms the boards’ authority to levy compensatory and restitutive charges under Sections 33A (Water Act) and 31A (Air Act), and distinguishes fines for mere norm violations from damages payable both for environmental restoration and for compensating affected persons.**

The passage says the Court restored the boards’ power to levy compensatory and restitutive charges (tied to Sections 33A and 31A) and drew a clear line between fines (for violations) and damages (for restoration and victim compensation).

B: The ruling is not about criminal penalties under general penal law and does not conflate fines and damages.

C: No mention of creating a power to raise license fees; the distinction between fines and damages is expressly judicially articulated here.

D: The ruling restores (not withdraws) board powers and does not condition damages on criminal conviction beyond reasonable doubt.

5. B) False — because the ruling not only reinstates compensatory/restitutive levies but also empowers regulators to demand bank guarantees against prospective harm, expanding—not shrinking—the toolkit.

The passage explicitly states the ruling empowers regulators to demand bank guarantees against potential damage and reaffirms compensatory/restitutive levies—the opposite of rejecting them.

A: Incorrect—tools are expanded (bank guarantees allowed), not limited to punitive fines.

C: Incorrect—the passage frames bank guarantees as a regulatory power, not mere non-binding remarks.

D: Incorrect—bank guarantees are expressly mentioned as part of the empowered toolkit.

6. B) **Straight and narrow** (idiom) – Honest, morally upright conduct ईमानदार और नैतिक आचरण

7. B) 'unless' के बदले 'until' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ समय (up to a point in time) की बात है।

until = up to the time → Wait until he arrives.

unless = if not → I won't go unless you come.

• 'wait until the manager arrives' will be used instead of 'unless the manager arrives' because the meaning is "wait up to the time the manager comes," not "if the manager doesn't come."

8. B) **Vague** (adjective) – Not clearly expressed; indistinct, nebulous, indefinite. अस्पष्ट/अनिश्चित
Antonym: Explicit (noun/verb) – Fully and clearly expressed; definite, unequivocal.

स्पष्ट/प्रत्यक्ष

- **Nebulous** – Hazy; indistinct. धुंधला/अस्पष्ट
- **Evasive** – Tending to avoid commitment or clarity; equivocal. टालमटोल/कतराने वाला
- **Tenuous** – Very weak or insubstantial. अत्यंत क्षीण/कमज़ोर

9. A) **Someone's ears are burning** (idiom) – Feeling that others are talking about you ऐसा लगना कि लोग आपके बारे में बात कर रहे हैं

10. A) 'police was' के बदले '**police were**' होना चाहिए क्योंकि police हमेशा plural मानी जाती है।
Rule: Police/people/cattle → plural verb; Family/Team → can be singular (as a unit) or plural (as individuals).

✓ The police were present at the rally.

Correct sentence:

The police were investigating the matter...

11. C) **Veracity** (noun) – Truthfulness; accuracy; adherence to fact. सत्यता/सच्चाई; शुद्धता।

Synonym: **Verity** (noun) – Truth; a true statement or principle. सत्य/सत् तथ्य।

- **Mendacity** (noun) – Lying; deceit. झूठ/कपट।
- **Rapacity** (noun) – Greed; predatory extortion. लोलुपता/लूटखसोट।
- **Voracity** (noun) – Great eagerness or appetite; gluttony. पेटपन/अत्यधिक भूख।

12. A) A–3, B–2, C–4, D–1

- **Wrangle** → Complicated, prolonged argument. लंबा/उलझा हुआ विवाद।
- **Wacky** → Amusing and strange. अटपटा पर मज़ेदार।
- **Codex** → Ancient manuscript/text. प्राचीन पाण्डुलिपि/ग्रंथ।
- **Postscript** → Additional info added to the main text (P.S.). परिशिष्ट/अंत टिप्पणी।

13. D) c, d, a, b

c: Paragraph की शुरुआत sentence c से होती है, क्योंकि यह विषय को प्रस्तुत करता है और बताता है कि food loss और waste वैश्विक खाद्य प्रणालियों (global food systems) के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती है। यह पूरी discussion के लिए context सेट करता है।

d: इसके बाद sentence d आता है, जो FAO और UNEP के estimates को प्रस्तुत करता है, जिसमें यह बताया गया है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर 13% भोजन उस stage तक पहुँचने से पहले ही खो जाता है, जबकि 19% भोजन retail, food service, और household levels पर बर्बाद हो जाता है। इस sentence में detailed information दी गई है, जो c में दिए गए issue को support करती है।

a: Sentence a इसके बाद आता है, जो d में बताए गए आंकड़ों (figures) को summarise करते हुए बताता है कि इस food loss और waste का परिणाम यह होता है कि 32% वैश्विक भोजन उत्पादन (global food production) discard कर दिया जाता है। यह d के figures को जोड़कर एक निष्कर्ष की ओर ले जाता है।

b: अंत में, sentence b paragraph को conclude करते हुए, इस waste के नैतिक और व्यावहारिक प्रभावों (moral and practical implications) को बताता है, खासकर उस दुनिया में जहाँ 700 million से अधिक लोग भूख (hunger) से पीड़ित हैं। यह statement पूरे paragraph में प्रस्तुत statistics के संदर्भ में एक मजबूत निष्कर्ष (strong conclusion) देता है, जिससे issue की गंभीरता का पता चलता है।

Explanation in English

c: The paragraph begins with c, which introduces the topic by highlighting that food loss and waste are significant challenges to sustainable global food systems, setting the context for the discussion. The sentence starts with a general noun phrase, "Food loss and waste," followed by the verb "represent," which introduces the topic clearly.

d: d follows c as it provides data and estimates from the FAO and UNEP, quantifying the extent of food loss (13%) and waste (19%) at different stages. This detailed information supports the issue presented in c.

a: a comes next, building on d by summarizing the total impact—stating that 32% of global food production is discarded as a result of the losses and waste described earlier.

b: b concludes the paragraph by emphasizing the moral and practical implications of food waste, particularly in a world where hunger affects over 700 million people. This statement provides a critical reflection on the statistics, adding depth to the discussion.

14. B) 'excruciating'

'excruciating' उपयुक्त है क्योंकि यह प्रबल/अत्यधिक पीड़ा के लिए स्थापित कोलोकेशन है: "excruciating pain." 'Hurting' participle है, 'consuming/protracting' का ऐसा प्रयोग 'pain' के साथ मान्य/प्रचलित नहीं है।

- 'Excruciating pain' is the standard collocation. 'Hurting' is a participle, and 'consuming/protracting' don't collocate naturally with 'pain' here.

15. B) **Infinitive** verb

"to + V1" = infinitive functioning as a noun (subject of the sentence). यहाँ "to swim" वाक्य का कर्ता है—infinitive (verbal noun).

16. A) 'There is many reports' के बदले 'There are many reports' होना चाहिए क्योंकि real subject reports plural है।

Rule: In "Here/There + be" sentences, the verb agrees with the real subject that comes after it.

✓ There are many books on the table.

Correct sentence:

There are many reports indicating that climate change...

17. A) **Via media** (noun/phrase) – A middle way between extremes; compromise path. मध्यम मार्ग/समन्वयी रास्ता।

Synonym: Middle course (noun) – A moderate or compromise approach. मध्यम/समन्वयात्मक राह।

- **Hard line** (noun) – Rigid, uncompromising policy. कठोर/असमन्वयी नीति।
- **Zero-sum** (adj.) – One party's gain equals another's loss. शून्य-योग/एक का लाभ, दूसरे का हानि।
- **Extremity** (noun) – The farthest point/most severe stage. चरम स्थिति/अंतिम सीमा।

18. D) यहाँ sense है कि उसने machine operate करना quit किया और बाहर चला गया। इसलिए सही usage = stop doing = quit the activity।

'Stopped to operate' का अर्थ होता pause किसी activity को ताकि machine चलाए, जो अर्थ के विपरीत है। जैसे— He stopped driving when he felt dizzy.

19. C) **'Excessive'**

'Excessive' (adjective) सही है क्योंकि यह 'intake' (noun) को विशेषित करता है। 'Excess of' अलग संरचना मांगता है: "An excess of sugar...". 'Excessively' adverb है और 'Access' का अर्थ प्रवेश/पहुंच है, जो संदर्भ से असंगत है।

- 'Excessive' modifies the noun 'intake'. 'Excess of' would require a different structure ("An excess of sugar..."). 'Excessively' is an adverb; 'Access' means entry/availability.

20. A) **BADC**

B starts the sentence with the subject "World Wetland Day," introducing the main topic of the paragraph.

A follows B as it adds additional information using the transition word "Besides," explaining another purpose of the celebration (commemorating the Ramsar Convention).

D comes next as it logically connects to A by elaborating on "the Convention" mentioned earlier, stating its significance in valuing wetlands.

C concludes the paragraph by introducing a contrasting idea ("Unfortunately") and highlights the current threat to wetlands, making it a suitable closing statement.

In Hindi:

B sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "World Wetland Day" को introduce करता है, जो paragraph के main topic को बताता है।

A, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह transition word "Besides" का उपयोग करके एक और purpose (Ramsar Convention को याद करना) बताता है।

D, A के बाद logically fit होता है क्योंकि यह "the Convention" के बारे में विस्तार से बताता है, जिसका उल्लेख पहले किया गया था।

C paragraph को conclude करता है, क्योंकि यह एक contrasting idea ("Unfortunately") लाता है और wetlands के खतरे को बताता है, जिससे यह एक suitable closing statement बनता है।

21. C) '**Evolving**' का use होगा क्योंकि "evolving" का अर्थ होता है धीरे-धीरे विकसित होना या बढ़ना। passage में mention किया गया है कि stray dog population बढ़ रही है, इसलिए 'evolving' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Atrophying' का अर्थ है सिकुड़ना या कमजोर होना, 'Eviscerating' का अर्थ है अंदरूनी भाग निकाल देना, और 'Enervating' का अर्थ है कमजोर करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- '**Evolving**' will be used because it means gradually developing or increasing. The passage mentions that the stray dog population is growing, so 'evolving' fits here. Whereas, 'Atrophying' means shrinking or weakening, 'Eviscerating' means removing internal parts, and 'Enervating' means weakening, which do not fit in this context.
22. B) '**Overwhelm**' का use होगा क्योंकि "overwhelm" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को अधिक मात्रा में घेर लेना या दबा देना। यहाँ sentence में mention किया गया है कि अगर stray dogs की population पर control नहीं किया गया, तो उनकी संख्या human population से अधिक हो सकती है, इसलिए 'overwhelm' यहाँ सही है। 'Overwhelms' (singular verb) subject 'number of dogs' (singular) के साथ agree नहीं करता क्योंकि modal verb 'may' के बाद base form ('overwhelm') आता है। 'Overwhelming' (adjective/gerund) और 'overwhelmed' (past tense) इस context में grammatically incorrect हैं।
- '**Overwhelm**' will be used because it means to overpower or surpass in quantity. The sentence states that if stray dog population is not controlled, their numbers may exceed the human population, making 'overwhelm' correct here. 'Overwhelms' (singular verb) doesn't agree with the modal verb 'may', which requires the base form ('overwhelm'). 'Overwhelming' (adjective/gerund) and 'overwhelmed' (past tense) are grammatically incorrect in this context.
23. A) '**Put forth**' का use होगा क्योंकि "put forth" का अर्थ होता है प्रस्तुत करना या सामने रखना। यहाँ sentence में mention किया गया है कि animal welfare activists अपना argument प्रस्तुत करते हैं, इसलिए 'put forth' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Put off' का अर्थ है टालना, 'Put down' का अर्थ है दबाना या नीचा दिखाना, और 'Put aside' का अर्थ है अलग रखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

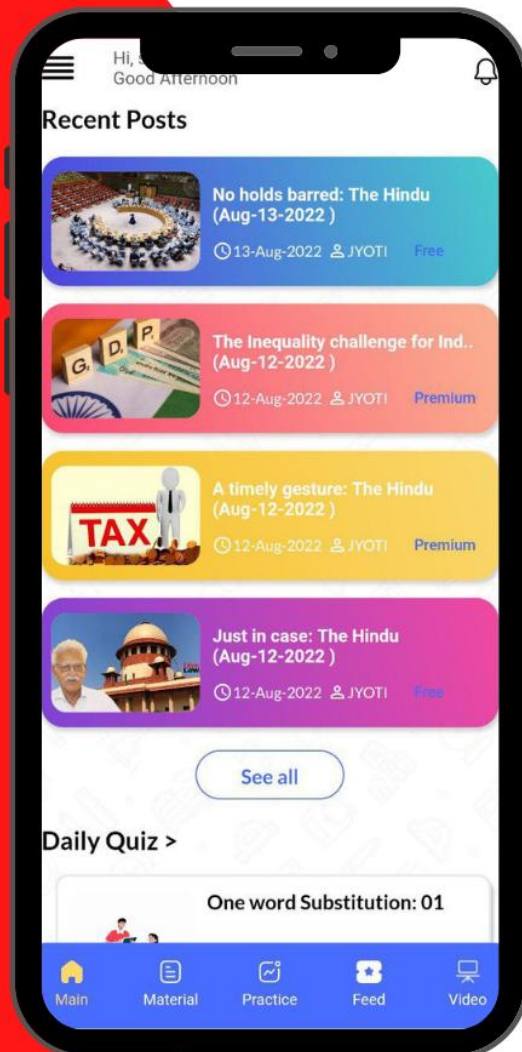
- **'Put forth'** will be used because it means to present or propose something. The sentence mentions that animal welfare activists present their argument, making 'put forth' correct here. Whereas, 'Put off' means to postpone, 'Put down' means to suppress or criticize, and 'Put aside' means to set aside, which do not fit in this context. "Put forth" is a phrasal verb that correctly matches the action of presenting an argument.

24. D) **'curtailing'** का use होगा क्योंकि "curtailing" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को कम या सीमित करना। यहाँ sentence में mention किया गया है कि stray dog population को कम करने से rat population बढ़ेगी, इसलिए 'curtailing' (कम करने की क्रिया) यहाँ सही है। यह gerund form है जो 'that' के बाद clause के subject के रूप में काम करता है। A. curtail (कम करना) – यह base verb form है, जो यहाँ subject के रूप में नहीं लग सकता। curtailed (कम किया हुआ) – यह past participle है, जो passive voice में काम आता है, यहाँ active sense चाहिए। curtails (कम करता है) – यह singular present tense है, जो subject-verb agreement के हिसाब से यहाँ गलत है क्योंकि हमें एक noun (क्रिया का रूप) चाहिए।

- **'curtailing'** will be used because it means to reduce or limit something. The sentence states that reducing the stray dog population will increase the rat population, so 'curtailing' (the act of reducing) fits here. It is in the gerund form, functioning as the subject of the clause after 'that'. curtail – It's the base verb form and cannot act as a subject here. curtailed – It's the past participle, used in passive voice, but here we need an active sense. curtails – It's singular present tense, which doesn't fit grammatically as we need a noun (gerund) here.

25. B) **'Lead to'** का use होगा क्योंकि "lead to" का अर्थ होता है किसी परिणाम या स्थिति की ओर ले जाना। passage में mention किया गया है कि stray dogs की संख्या को कम करने से rats की संख्या में वृद्धि हो सकती है, इसलिए 'lead to' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Confide in' का अर्थ है किसी पर विश्वास करना, 'Dwell on' का अर्थ है किसी बात पर बार-बार विचार करना, और 'Entrust with' का अर्थ है किसी को कुछ सौंपना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Lead to'** will be used because it means to result in or cause something. The passage mentions that reducing the stray dog population may cause an increase in the rat population, making 'lead to' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Confide in' means to trust someone, 'Dwell on' means to think repeatedly about something, and 'Entrust with' means to assign responsibility, which do not fit in this context.



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