

Friends and foes: On Bangladesh-Pakistan ties

Pakistan is filling the **void** created by the **alienation** of India from Bangladesh

In the first such visit in 13 years, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar travelled to Dhaka over the weekend to meet with members of the Bangladeshi **interim** government, headed by Muhammad Yunus, and **hold talks** with his **counterpart**, Touhid Hossain. **Ties** had been **tense** since 2009, when Sheikh Hasina came to power, and under **strain** over the **prosecution** of those who **colluded** with Pakistan during the 1971 **liberation** war — and the **assassination** of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of her family in 1975. In 2015, Bangladesh demanded the **expulsion** of a Pakistani **diplomat** over links to a terror group and **recalled** its High Commissioner to Islamabad after Pakistan protested the **hanging** in Bangladesh of those found **guilty** of **collusion** in 1971. Although the two nations subsequently **restored envoys**, they began to repair ties after Ms. Hasina's **ouster** last August. The process was also **nudged** by China, which **convened** a **trilateral mechanism** with Bangladesh and Pakistani officials in Kunming. In Dhaka, there was agreement to restore visa **facilitation** for diplomats, have direct flights, grant scholarships for Bangladeshi students and ways to enhance trade from current lows of less than a billion dollars. However, the Yunus government has refused to move on decades-old Bangladeshi demands for **reparations** from Pakistan. These include a formal **apology** for the **genocide** in 1971 **perpetrated** by Pakistani forces, financial **compensations** and the **repatriation** of thousands of "Stranded Pakistanis" or Urdu-speaking Muhajirs who had **migrated** there after Partition and still held **allegiance** to West Pakistan. While meeting Mr. Dar, Mr. Yunus also **called for strengthening** regional cooperation, including a revival of the SAARC process. India has **eyed** the **thaw** in Islamabad-Dhaka ties with some **suspicion**, **given** reports that Pakistani diplomats supported Jamaat-e-Islami student activists during the anti-Hasina protests last year. Of greater concern has been military and intelligence contacts.

While there is no question that New Delhi has cause to feel **cut out** and **bruised** by the new-found **bonhomie** between an **erstwhile ally** and a long-time foe, it is time that **South Block** adopts a more realistic **prism**. Pakistan is **stepping into** the **breach** caused by the strain in India-Bangladesh ties. Although Mr. Modi met Mr. Yunus in April and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Mr. Hossain **on the side-lines** of other international events, neither has **contemplated** a visit, nor has Mr. Yunus been invited. With the announcement of elections in Bangladesh, in February, New Delhi must also **broaden** its political **engagement** with political parties there, even as it **nudges** the Yunus government to a more **inclusive** process. In the absence of a stronger regional South Asian grouping, New Delhi has a difficult task in **holding sway** over **bilateral** ties between any of its neighbours, especially Bangladesh and Pakistan.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Foe** (noun) – enemy, adversary, opponent, rival, antagonist दुश्मन
2. **Ties** (noun) – relations, links, connections, bonds, relationship संबंध
3. **Void** (noun) – vacuum, gap, emptiness, lacuna, blank शून्य/ खालीपन
4. **Alienation** (noun) – estrangement, distancing, detachment, isolation, disaffection अलगाव
5. **Interim** (adjective) – provisional, temporary, stopgap, caretaker, ad hoc अंतरिम
6. **Hold talks** (phrase) – negotiate, confer, engage in dialogue, discuss, parley वार्ता करना
7. **Counterpart** (noun) – opposite number, peer, equivalent, fellow official, analogue समकक्ष
8. **Ties** (noun) – relations, links, connections, bonds, engagements संबंध
9. **Tense** (adjective) – strained, fraught, edgy, uneasy, taut तनावपूर्ण
10. **Strain** (noun) – tension, stress, pressure, friction, strain दबाव
11. **Prosecution** (noun) – legal action, trial, proceedings, indictment, arraignment अभियोजन
12. **Collude** (verb) – conspire, connive, plot, scheme, collaborate (illicitly) मिलीभगत करना
13. **Liberation** (noun) – independence, freedom, emancipation, deliverance, release मुक्ति
14. **Assassination** (noun) – killing, murder, slaying, liquidation, political killing हत्या (राजनीतिक)
15. **Expulsion** (noun) – ejection, ouster, removal, deportation, dismissal निष्कासन
16. **Diplomat** (noun) – ambassador, envoy, emissary, representative, plenipotentiary राजनयिक
17. **Recall** (verb) – withdraw, call back, summon back, bring home, retract वापस बुलाना
18. **Hanging** (noun) – execution, capital punishment, death by rope, gallows sentence, strangulation फांसी
19. **Guilty** (noun) – culprit, offender, convict, wrongdoer, felon दोषी
20. **Collusion** (noun) – conspiracy, connivance, complicity, secret cooperation, cahoots साँठगाँठ
21. **Restore** (verb) – reinstate, reestablish, resume, bring back, normalize बहाल करना

22. **Envoy** (noun) – emissary, ambassador, representative, delegate, messenger दूत
23. **Ouster** (noun) – removal, unseating, dismissal, displacement, overthrow पदच्युति
24. **Nudge** (verb) – prod, prompt, encourage, coax, push gently टहोका देना
25. **Convene** (verb) – assemble, summon, call, gather, bring together बुलाना
26. **Trilateral** (adjective) – three-way, tripartite, three-party, three-sided, triangular त्रिपक्षीय
27. **Mechanism** (noun) – framework, apparatus, system, process, setup तंत्र
28. **Facilitation** (noun) – easing, enabling, assistance, streamlining, simplification सुगमकरण
29. **Reparation** (noun) – compensation, restitution, redress, indemnity, amends क्षतिपूर्ति
30. **Apology** (noun) – regret, remorse, acknowledgment of fault, contrition, mea culpa क्षमायाचना
31. **Genocide** (noun) – mass extermination, ethnic cleansing, mass murder, annihilation, holocaust नरसंहार
32. **Perpetrate** (verb) – commit, carry out, execute, inflict, unleash अंजाम देना
33. **Compensation** (noun) – reparation, damages, indemnification, recompense, remuneration मुआवज़ा
34. **Repatriation** (noun) – return, homecoming, sending back, resettlement, relocation स्वदेश-वापसी
35. **Stranded** (adjective) – marooned, stuck, isolated, abandoned, helpless फँसा हुआ
36. **Migrate** (verb) – relocate, move, resettle, emigrate, shift प्रवास करना
37. **Allegiance** (noun) – loyalty, fealty, fidelity, adherence, devotion निष्ठा
38. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – demand, require, seek, urge, request मांग करना
39. **Strengthen** (verb) – bolster, reinforce, fortify, deepen, enhance मज़बूत करना
40. **Eye** (verb) – watch, monitor, observe, regard, consider नज़र रखना
41. **Thaw** (noun) – détente, easing, warming, relaxation, softening पिघलाव (रिश्तों में)
42. **Suspicion** (noun) – doubt, misgiving, distrust, skepticism, wariness संदेह
43. **Given** (preposition) – considering, in view of, in light of, owing to, because of के मद्देनज़र
44. **Cut out** (phrasal verb) – exclude, shut out, leave out, sideline, ostracize अलग कर देना

45. **Bruise** (verb) – hurt, wound, injure, batter, dent आहत करना
46. **Bonhomie** (noun) – friendliness, cordiality, camaraderie, geniality, goodwill सौहार्द
47. **Erstwhile** (adjective) – former, previous, earlier, one-time, ex- पूर्व
48. **Ally** (noun) – partner, friend, supporter, confederate, associate सहयोगी
49. **South Block** (noun) – the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs. दक्षिण ब्लॉक (विदेश-मंत्रालय/पीएमओ भवन)
50. **Prism** (noun) – lens, perspective, viewpoint, frame, angle दृष्टिकोण
51. **Step into** (phrasal verb) – enter, move into, fill, assume, take over प्रवेश करना
52. **Breach** (noun) – gap, vacuum, opening, lacuna, void दरार
53. **On the side-lines of** (phrase) – on the margins of, parallel to, during the fringes of, on the periphery of, alongside the main event इतर कार्यक्रम के दौरान
54. **Contemplate** (verb) – consider, ponder, mull, deliberate, weigh मनन करना
55. **Broaden** (verb) – widen, expand, extend, diversify, enlarge व्यापक करना
56. **Engagement** (noun) – involvement, interaction, outreach, participation, dealings सहभागिता
57. **Nudge** (verb) – coax or gently encourage (someone) to do something. प्रोत्साहित करना
58. **Inclusive** (adjective) – broad-based, participatory, all-encompassing, representative, non-exclusionary समावेशी
59. **Hold sway** (phrase) – dominate, prevail, command influence, exert control, be ascendant प्रभुत्व रखना
60. **Bilateral** (adjective) – two-way, two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, dyadic द्विपक्षीय

Summary of the Editorial

1. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar visited Dhaka after 13 years, meeting the Bangladeshi interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.
2. Ties had been tense since 2009 under Sheikh Hasina, largely due to prosecutions of those who supported Pakistan in the 1971 Liberation War.
3. Relations worsened after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination (1975) and subsequent political hostility.
4. In 2015, Bangladesh expelled a Pakistani diplomat over terror links and recalled its envoy after Pakistan's protest against war crime executions.
5. Despite restoration of envoys, ties only began to improve after Hasina's ouster in August 2024.
6. China facilitated reconciliation by creating a trilateral platform with Bangladesh and Pakistan in Kunming.
7. Recent Dhaka talks resulted in agreements on visa facilitation for diplomats, direct flights, scholarships, and boosting trade (currently < \$1 billion).
8. However, Bangladesh still insists on reparations from Pakistan — a formal apology for the 1971 genocide, financial compensation, and repatriation of "Stranded Pakistanis" (Urdu-speaking Muhajirs).
9. The Yunus government has not moved forward on these longstanding demands.
10. Mr. Yunus emphasized the need to strengthen regional cooperation, including reviving the SAARC process.
11. India views the Pakistan-Bangladesh rapprochement with suspicion, especially given Pakistani diplomats' alleged support to Jamaat-e-Islami student activists during anti-Hasina protests.
12. Indian concerns are deeper about military and intelligence ties between Dhaka and Islamabad.
13. New Delhi feels sidelined, as neither PM Modi nor EAM Jaishankar has paid a visit to Dhaka, nor has Yunus been invited to India.
14. With Bangladesh elections due in February, India must expand its political engagement with multiple parties, not just the Yunus government.
15. In the absence of a robust South Asian regional grouping, India faces a challenge in maintaining strong influence over bilateral ties involving its neighbors, particularly Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which set of measures did Dhaka and Islamabad agree to during Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's visit, as stated in the passage?**
 - A. Restore visa facilitation for diplomats; resume direct flights; scholarships for Pakistani students; sign a defence cooperation pact
 - B. Pakistan's formal apology for 1971; repatriation of "Stranded Pakistanis"; financial compensation; opening new land trade posts
 - C. Restore visa facilitation for diplomats; start direct flights; scholarships for Bangladeshi students; explore ways to raise trade from under \$1 billion
 - D. Create a China–Bangladesh–Pakistan free-trade zone; tourist visa waiver; joint SAARC revival declaration; reopen embassies
2. **Why, according to the passage, is Pakistan "stepping into the breach" in Dhaka?**
 - A. Because China insisted through the Kunming mechanism and Pakistan currently chairs SAARC
 - B. Because strain in India–Bangladesh ties created space, and India's limited high-level outreach (no visits/invite) left room for Islamabad to advance ties
 - C. Because Dhaka accepted Pakistan's reparations terms, which India opposed
 - D. Because New Delhi backed Jamaat-e-Islami protests, pushing Dhaka toward Islamabad
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Analytical
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Condemnatory
 - D. Nostalgic
4. **In "Pakistan is stepping into the breach caused by the strain in India-Bangladesh ties," the phrase stepping into the breach most nearly means:**
 - A. Exploiting a legal violation.
 - B. Filling a gap created by another's absence or failure.
 - C. Crossing a border unlawfully.
 - D. Breaking a diplomatic promise.
5. **In "new-found bonhomie between an erstwhile ally and a long-time foe," choose the best antonym of bonhomie.**
 - A. Camaraderie
 - B. Cordiality
 - C. Geniality
 - D. Hostility
6. **Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.**

Rakesh is too old to run fast.

 - A. Adverb
 - B. Conjunction
 - C. Intensifier
 - D. Noun
7. **Identify the option that arranges the given parts in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph.**

A) In speed, in comfort, in beauty, in equipment she was a masterpiece.

- B) It was the envy and admiration of the maritime nations of the world.
C) The Titanic was the Queen Alary of her day and the pride of the White Star Line.
D) Everything about her was attractive and fascinating.
A. CBAD
B. ABCD
C. CDAB
D. DCAB
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
My neighbour is malicious.
A. generous
B. affectionate
C. spiteful
D. magnanimous
9. **Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.**
Ravi won the match with a huge margin
A. Intransitive verb
B. Transitive verb
C. Demonstrative verb
D. Adjective
10. **Identify the number of sentence/s is/are grammatically incorrect and select the option which shows how many sentences are grammatically incorrect. If all the sentences are correct, then select option (D), all are correct.**
(i) Looking ahead, the university is expunging revenue generation opportunities to add more facilities for students and staff.
(ii) If you are interested in applying for the job, your application must received by Friday.
(iii) Perhaps the biggest threat today is the impact of climate change on food systems and livelihoods of poor farmers.
A. 3
B. 2
C. 1
D. All are correct
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
I am very particular about it.
A. quiet
B. vague
C. precise
D. minute
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Every habitat has some distinctive vegetation which defines the ecosystem.
A. unique
B. common
C. special
D. unfamiliar

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.

P) This is one more effort (of curbing meat consumption) that assumes that the best way of making plant-based foods acceptable to human palate is to make them taste like meat
Q) The Irish company Strong Roots that promotes vegan foods, in collaboration with an Oxford University professor, recently developed a “meat bacon-scented patch” to help people eschew meat
R) The company claims that the patch, worn on the arm, releases on scratching the mouth-watering smell of bacon and tricks the palate and brain
S) To believe one is eating meat while actually consuming vegetables

- A. QRSP
B. QPRS
C. RPSQ
D. RQPS

14. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Wind down

- A. To relax after a period of activity
B. To act furiously after a period of silence
C. To speak out the truth to people
D. To act on the ground

15. Identify the number of sentence/s is/are grammatically incorrect and select the option which shows how many sentences are grammatically incorrect. If all the sentences are correct, then select option (D), all are correct.

(i) You should read the newspaper regularly to be update with current affairs.
(ii) Our grandparents will be visited by us this weekend.
(iii) However, the task is from done, particularly in ensuring equity in the distribution of quality education.

- A. 3
B. 2
C. 1
D. All are correct

16. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.

“Do not be afraid, noble Prince, I have taken pity on you and will help you,” cried the sea-god.

- A. The sea-god told the noble Prince do not be afraid; he has taken pity on you and will help you.
B. The sea-god cried to the noble Prince and forbade him to be afraid; he added that he took pity and will help.
C. The sea-god cried to noble Prince and asked him not to be afraid. He also said that he had taken pity on him and would help him.
D. The sea-god told the noble Prince not to be afraid and that he had taken pity on him and will help him.

17. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Please use conversational language.

- A. formal

- B. complex
C. dialogical
D. informal
18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
He advised his sons not to quarrel amongst themselves when he was dead but to remain united.
A. He said to his sons, "Do not quarrel amongst yourselves when I am dead, but to remain united."
B. He said to his sons, "Did not quarrel amongst yourself when I am dead, but remain united."
C. He said to his sons, "Do not quarrel amongst yourselves when I was dead, and remain united."
D. He told his sons, "Not quarrel amongst yourselves when I am dead but to remain united."
19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Run wild
A. To run like a wild animal
B. To treat anyone like a wild creature
C. To feel like a wild animal
D. To grow without any control
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) The conference also marked a mid-term review of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 (to advance the water agenda
B) The World Water Conference that was convened by the United Nations (March 22-24 2023) was the first UN conference on freshwater in almost 50 years
C) It was held in the context of serious environmental issues — flooding, drought, a severity of climate change and a looming food crisis
D) By energising existing programmes and projects, and inspiring water action to achieve the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which envisages the sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
A. BDAC
B. CABD
C. BCAD
D. ABCD

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 framers of the Indian Constitution faced the _____ (1) _____ challenge of defining constitutional democracy. Absolute parliamentary sovereignty, where Parliament is free to do what it wishes, as in the case of the British model, found no _____ (2) _____ with the Constituent Assembly. The intent and mandate of the Assembly was clear: Parliament has the power to make laws, but no law can be a _____ (3) _____ from the Constitution. The power to strike down laws was meant to be sparing — an exception to the right of Parliament to legislate in a democracy. Trouble starts _____ (4) _____ when exceptional power becomes the

norm. Our constitutional courts, by practice, have been _____ (5) _____ to the status of a parallel legislator.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

- A. trifling
- B. imminent
- C. formidable
- D. mutual

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

- A. skepticism
- B. counterpart
- C. contentious
- D. credence

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

- A. exaltation
- B. derogation
- C. rancour
- D. acknowledgment

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

- A. brewing
- B. concluding
- C. capping
- D. unyielding

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

- A. abandoned
- B. afflicted
- C. deprived
- D. elevated

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- C) Restore visa facilitation for diplomats; start direct flights; scholarships for Bangladeshi students; explore ways to raise trade from under \$1 billion
 It matches the passage exactly—visa facilitation for diplomats, direct flights, scholarships for Bangladeshi students, and steps to boost sub-\$1bn trade.
 A: Wrong scholarship direction (should be for Bangladeshi students) and adds a defence pact not mentioned.
 B: These are Bangladesh's longstanding demands refused by the Yunus government, not agreed.
 D: No free-trade zone, tourist visa waiver, or embassy reopening (envoys were already restored earlier); SAARC "revival" is mentioned as a call, not a joint declaration.
- B) Because strain in India–Bangladesh ties created space, and India's limited high-level outreach (no visits/invite) left room for Islamabad to advance ties
 The passage says India–Bangladesh ties are strained; despite some meetings, there have been no visits or invitation, so Pakistan is filling that gap.
 A: Kunming trilateral exists, but SAARC chairmanship isn't stated; "insistence" is not given as the reason.
 C: Inverts facts—Yunus government refused to move on reparations/apology/repatriation.
 D: Opposite of the passage—reports said Pakistani diplomats supported Jamaat-e-Islami student activists, not India.
- A) **Analytical**
 The passage dissects recent Bangladesh–Pakistan moves and advises India to recalibrate policy using a realistic lens—measured, fact-driven, and evaluative.
 B Optimistic: No upbeat forecast; stresses difficulties and caution.
 C Condemnatory: It doesn't denounce any actor; it assesses.
 D Nostalgic: No longing for the past; focus is present strategy.
- B) **Filling a gap**
 The phrase means taking responsibility where there's a gap/need.
 A: Focuses on "breach" as violation—not the idiomatic sense here.
 C: Misreads "breach" as border crossing.
 D: "Breach" as promise-breaking doesn't fit the context of diplomatic positioning.
- D) **Hostility**
 Bonhomie means cheerful friendliness/warmth; hostility is the opposite.
- A) too' Adverb है, जो adjective 'old' के साथ जुड़कर अत्यधिक स्तर (excess degree) को दर्शा रहा है।
 'too' functions as an Adverb, modifying the adjective 'old' and showing excessive degree (more than desirable).
- A) **CBAD**

C sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "The Titanic" को introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि बात किसके बारे में हो रही है – The Titanic was the Queen Alary of her day and the pride of the White Star Line।

B, C के बाद आता है, क्योंकि यह Titanic की importance को और बढ़ाता है – It was the envy and admiration of the maritime nations of the world। यहाँ "It" का referent "The Titanic" है, जो पहले introduce हो चुका है।

A, B के बाद logically fit होता है क्योंकि यह Titanic की खासियतों को detail में बताता है – In speed, in comfort, in beauty, in equipment she was a masterpiece। यह Titanic की प्रशंसा को और गहराई देता है।

D, A के बाद naturally आता है, क्योंकि यह पूरी बात को wrap up करता है – Everything about her was attractive and fascinating। यह एक summarizing sentence की तरह काम करता है, जो Titanic के overall आकर्षण को describe करता है।

In English:

C starts the paragraph because it introduces the subject "The Titanic," telling us what the paragraph is about.

B follows C because it builds on the idea of the Titanic's significance. The pronoun "It" clearly refers back to "The Titanic" introduced in C.

A comes next because it adds specific qualities that made the Titanic so admired. This highlights her superiority and status in more detail.

D logically concludes the paragraph by summarizing everything said before. It wraps up the admiration for the Titanic with a final, general praise.

8. C) **Malicious** (adjective) – Spiteful, malevolent, vindictive, rancorous, hostile. दुष्ट / हानिकारक
Synonym: **Spiteful** (adjective) – Full of spite, showing a desire to harm, bitter, malevolent, vindictive. द्वेषपूर्ण

• **Generous** (adjective) – Kind, liberal, unselfish, benevolent. उदार

• **Affectionate** (adjective) – Loving, fond, caring, warm. स्नेही

• **Magnanimous** (adjective) – Noble, forgiving, generous in spirit. उदारचित्त

9. B) won' Verb है, जो the match (Object) के साथ जुड़कर क्रिया-कार्य को पूर्ण करता है। यह Transitive Verb है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ तभी पूरा होता है जब यह किसी Object पर कार्य करता है।

'won' functions as a Transitive Verb, showing an action carried out upon an object (the match).

10. B) 2

(i) Error

'expunging' के बदले अर्थानुकूल क्रिया चाहिए—यहाँ 'exploring/expanding' उपयुक्त है;

'expunge' का अर्थ मिटा देना/हटा देना होता है (अभिलेख, स्मृति आदि), जो यहाँ गलत है। सही—

Looking ahead, the university is exploring (or expanding) revenue generation opportunities to add more facilities for students and staff.

Use a meaning-appropriate verb instead of 'expunging'—exploring/expanding fits; 'expunge' means erase/remove (records, memory), which is wrong here. Correct: Looking ahead, the university is exploring (or expanding) revenue generation opportunities to add more facilities for students and staff.

(ii) Error

'must received' गलत है; passive बनाना होगा: must be received (या active: must reach us).

सही— If you are interested in applying for the job, your application must be received by Friday.

Use passive auxiliary: must be received (or active must reach us). Correct as above.

(iii) No error

वाक्य व्याकरणतः सही है; वैकल्पिक रूप से 'the livelihoods' भी लिखा जा सकता है, पर

आवश्यक नहीं। सही— Perhaps the biggest threat today is the impact of climate change on food systems and (the) livelihoods of poor farmers.

Grammatically fine; optional article before 'livelihoods' is stylistic, not mandatory.

11. B) **Particular** (adjective) – Specific, exact, meticulous, detailed, exacting. विशेष / खास / सावधानीपूर्वक

Antonym: **Vague** (adjective) – Unclear, indefinite, imprecise, ambiguous, hazy. अस्पष्ट / धुंधला

Quiet (adjective) – Silent, calm, noiseless, peaceful. शांत

Precise (adjective) – Exact, accurate, meticulous, definite. सटीक

Minute (adjective) – Very small, tiny, detailed, negligible. सूक्ष्म / छोटा

12. B) **Distinctive** (adjective) – Unique, characteristic, peculiar, special, individual. विशिष्ट

Antonym: **Common** (adjective) – Ordinary, usual, widespread, not special, prevalent. सामान्य

Unique (adjective) – One of a kind, unparalleled, matchless. अद्वितीय

Special (adjective) – Exceptional, extraordinary, remarkable, unusual. विशेष

Unfamiliar (adjective) – Unknown, strange, new, unheard of. अपरिचित

13. A) **QRSP**

Q: The Irish company is introduced in this sentence (Strong Roots). The mention of the "meat bacon-scented patch" introduces a key concept that will be built upon in the following sentences.

R: The word "The company" in the beginning of sentence R refers back to "The Irish company Strong Roots" in sentence Q. The noun-pronoun relationship (using "the company" as a reference) indicates that R should follow Q

S: "To believe one is eating meat..." logically extends the idea from R about tricking "the palate and brain". The concept of tricking the brain in R is explained further in S, where it clarifies that the illusion is to make someone think they're eating meat when they're not

P: Sentence P starts with "This is one more effort...". The use of "this" refers back to the previous idea, which is the development and use of the meat bacon-scented patch.

14. A) **Wind down** (idiom) – To relax after a period of activity थकान के बाद आराम करना / शिथिल होना

15. B) 2

(i) Error

'to be update' के बदले 'to be updated'/'to stay updated' होगा; 'update' adjective नहीं है,

participial adjective updated चाहिए। साथ ही 'updated on current affairs' अधिक स्वाभाविक है।

जैसे— You should read the newspaper regularly to stay updated on current affairs.

Use 'to be updated'/'to stay updated', not 'to be update'; 'updated on current affairs' is idiomatic. E.g., You should read the newspaper regularly to stay updated on current affairs.

(ii) No Error

वाक्य व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही passive है: Our grandparents will be visited by us this weekend. (अधिक स्वाभाविक active: We will visit our grandparents this weekend.)

Grammatically correct passive. A more natural active is: We will visit our grandparents this weekend.

(iii) Error

'is from done' गलत है; निश्चित मुहावरा far from done होता है. सही— However, the task is far from done, particularly in ensuring equity in the distribution of quality education.

Fix the idiom to far from done (not 'from done'). Correct as above.

16. C) The sea-god cried to noble Prince and asked him not to be afraid. He also said that he had taken pity on him and would help him.

Negative imperative → report as "asked/told him not to be afraid."

Sequence of tenses: "have taken" → "had taken" and "will help" → "would help."

Pronouns shift "you" → "him."

Why others are wrong (brief):

A: Uses "told ... do not" (should be "not to"), no tense backshift ("has/will").

B: "forbade ... to be afraid" is odd here, and tenses not backshifted ("took/will").

D: Partially correct but keeps "will" (should be "would").

17. D) **Conversational** (adjective) – Friendly, relaxed, natural, casual, colloquial. बातचीत जैसा / अनौपचारिक

Synonym: **Informal** (adjective) – Casual, relaxed, natural, friendly, colloquial. अनौपचारिक

• **Formal** (adjective) – Official, structured, ceremonious, stiff, proper. औपचारिक

• **Complex** (adjective) – Complicated, intricate, elaborate, sophisticated, knotty. जटिल

• **Dialogical** (adjective) – Relating to dialogue, discursive, interactive, reciprocal, two-way. संवादात्मक

18. A) He said to his sons, "Do not quarrel amongst yourselves when I am dead, but to remain united."

Converting advice to direct speech uses the imperative: "Do not... but remain..." and shifts pronouns/time back: "themselves → yourselves," "he was dead → I am dead."

Option A is the closest match: "Do not... when I am dead ..." and correct "yourselves."

(Yes, the ideal phrasing is "but remain united" rather than "but to remain," but among the given choices, A best reflects the meaning.)

Why the others are wrong (brief):

B: "Did not quarrel" (wrong imperative), "yourself" (number error), and tense mix.

C: Uses "was dead" instead of "am dead" for the speaker; also uses "and" (loses the contrast "but").

D: Missing auxiliary in the imperative ("Not quarrel"), and has "but to remain."

19. D) **Run wild** (idiom) – To grow without any control बेकाबू होना / नियंत्रण से बाहर बढ़ना

20. C) **BCAD**

B: Sentence B provides an introduction to the main subject matter of the paragraph, the "World Water Conference." It sets the stage by stating what the conference is about, when it was held, and by whom it was convened (the United Nations).

C: Additionally, "It" at the beginning of sentence C refers to "The World Water Conference" in sentence B, establishing a noun-pronoun relationship that makes the sequence BC logical.

A: Sentence A provides more details about the conference itself, including its agenda and what it marked (mid-term review of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028).

D: The "2030 Agenda" and "Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)" mentioned in D are related to "the Water Action Decade 2018-2028" mentioned in A

21. C) '**Formidable**' का use होगा क्योंकि "formidable" का अर्थ होता है बहुत कठिन, गंभीर और चुनौतीपूर्ण। sentence में कहा गया है कि संविधान निर्माताओं के सामने लोकतांत्रिक ढांचे को परिभाषित करना एक बड़ी चुनौती थी, इसलिए 'formidable' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Trifling' का अर्थ है तुच्छ या महत्वहीन, 'Imminent' का अर्थ है निकट भविष्य में होने वाला, और 'Mutual' का अर्थ है परस्पर—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Formidable' will be used because it means very difficult, serious, and challenging. The sentence says that defining constitutional democracy was a huge challenge for the framers, so 'formidable' is correct here. Whereas 'Trifling' means trivial, 'Imminent' means about to happen (temporal), and 'Mutual' means reciprocal, none of which fit in this context.

22. D) '**Credence**' का use होगा क्योंकि "credence" का अर्थ होता है विश्वास या स्वीकार्यता। sentence में कहा गया है कि ब्रिटिश मॉडल की absolute parliamentary sovereignty को संविधान सभा ने कोई स्वीकार्यता (credence) नहीं दी, इसलिए 'credence' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Skepticism' का अर्थ है संदेह, 'Counterpart' का अर्थ है समकक्ष/समान पद पर व्यक्ति या संस्था, और 'Contentious' का अर्थ है विवादास्पद—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Credence' will be used because it means belief or acceptance. The sentence says that the British model of absolute parliamentary sovereignty found no acceptance with the Constituent Assembly, so 'credence' fits here. Whereas 'Skepticism' means doubt, 'Counterpart' means equivalent, and 'Contentious' means controversial, which do not fit in this context.

23. B) '**Derogation**' का use होगा क्योंकि "derogation" का अर्थ होता है किसी नियम या कानून से छूट या अपवाद। sentence में कहा गया है कि संसद कानून बना सकती है, लेकिन कोई भी कानून संविधान से छूट (derogation) नहीं हो सकता, इसलिए 'derogation' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Exaltation' का अर्थ है प्रशंसा या महिमा मंडन, 'Rancour' का अर्थ है कटुता या द्वेष, और 'Acknowledgment' का अर्थ है स्वीकार करना—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Derogation' will be used because it means an exemption or departure from a rule or law. The sentence says Parliament can make laws, but no law can be a derogation from the Constitution, so 'derogation' fits here. Whereas 'Exaltation' means praise, 'Rancour' means bitterness, and 'Acknowledgment' means recognition, none of which fit this legal context.

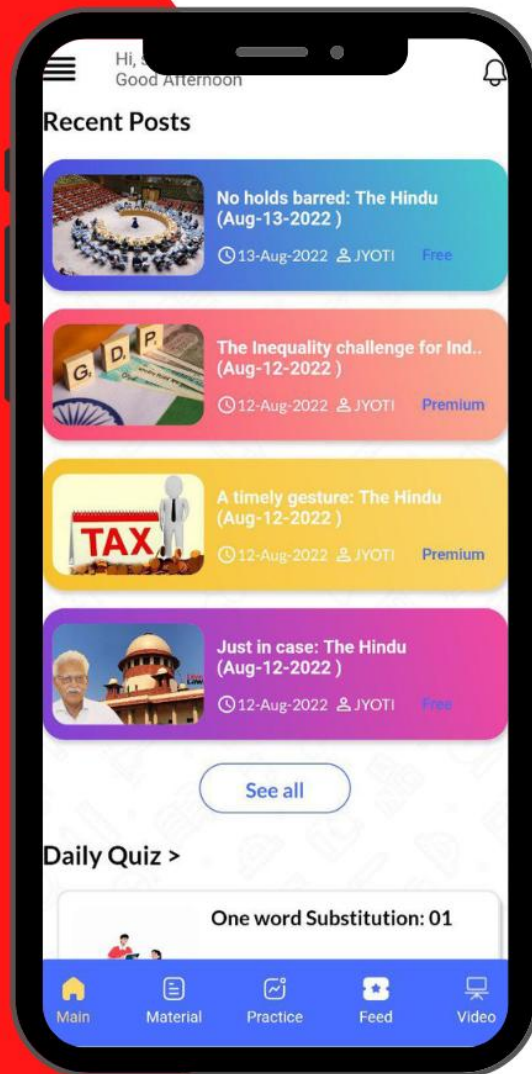
24. A) '**Brewing**' का use होगा क्योंकि "brewing" का अर्थ होता है धीरे-धीरे पनपना या शुरू होना। sentence में कहा गया है कि दिक्कत तब शुरू होती है जब असाधारण शक्ति सामान्य बन जाती है, इसलिए 'trouble starts brewing' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Concluding' का अर्थ है समाप्त होना, 'Capping' का अर्थ है ढकना या सीमा लगाना, और 'Unyielding' का अर्थ है कठोर या अडिग—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Brewing' will be used because it means gradually developing or beginning. The sentence says trouble starts when exceptional power becomes the norm, so 'trouble starts brewing' fits

correctly. Whereas 'Concluding' means ending, 'Capping' means covering or limiting, and 'Unyielding' means inflexible, none of which fit in this context.

25. D) **Elevated** का use होगा क्योंकि "elevated" का अर्थ होता है ऊँचा उठाना या किसी को उच्च पद/स्थिति देना। sentence में कहा गया है कि हमारे संवैधानिक न्यायालय एक समानांतर विधायिका के स्तर पर पहुँच गए हैं, इसलिए 'elevated' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Abandoned' का अर्थ है छोड़ देना, 'Afflicted' का अर्थ है पीड़ित होना, और 'Deprived' का अर्थ है वंचित करना—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Elevated' will be used because it means raised or promoted to a higher position. The sentence says that our constitutional courts have, by practice, been elevated to the status of a parallel legislator, so 'elevated' is correct here. Whereas 'Abandoned' means left, 'Afflicted' means suffering, and 'Deprived' means denied, none of these fit in this context.



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