

## Incremental change: On Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency-III

**Emissions** can be significantly **curbed** only through electrification

In mid-April, news broke that India's automakers had **unanimously** agreed to a new fuel efficiency and emissions reduction target **proposed** by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the sector's standards-setting body. This follows a controversy late last year, **driven** largely by differences between Maruti Suzuki — which commands an **overwhelming** share of the small-car segment — and other manufacturers. The earlier proposal had effectively created a **carve-out** for small cars, a segment that **accounts for** about 14%-15% of passenger vehicle sales, delaying the shift to cleaner fuels and technologies. **Larger carmakers**, **meanwhile**, **were** required to **meet** more **stringent** targets, putting them at a relative disadvantage **in terms of** pricing and investment. While this **triggered** a **relook** at the **proposed** emissions **norms**, what has emerged is only **marginally** better. In fact, some provisions appear **counterproductive** to reducing emissions and **decarbonising** the transport sector — India's third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. **At first glance**, the headline **reduction** in Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) targets — from about 113 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre under CAFE-II to 77 g/km by 2031-32 under CAFE-III — **appears ambitious**. The new cycle is proposed to run from April 2027 to March 2032. However, the **framework's** flexible design may weaken **compliance** and slow the urgent **transition** to cleaner technologies, especially electrification.

To be sure, the **explicit carve-out** for small cars **has** been removed, but it has been replaced by several alternative compliance pathways. These include credits for higher ethanol blending (from E20 to E85-compatible vehicles) and for incremental efficiency technologies such as start-stop systems, regenerative braking, and tyre pressure **monitoring** systems. While useful, these are **marginal** improvements that allow manufacturers to meet targets without a structural shift to **electric mobility**. The BEE has also proposed super-credits, where certain technologies count multiple times towards compliance — **for instance**, a battery electric vehicle could count as three vehicles. Combined with credit banking and trading, this creates a system in which manufacturers with an early technological lead can **accumulate** surplus credits and sell them to **laggards**. Further, compliance is to be **assessed** over three-year blocks rather than annually, allowing manufacturers to average performance over time. This reduces immediate pressure and weakens the signalling effect that regulations are meant to provide. At a time of fossil fuel **volatility**, this policy appears too weak to drive meaningful change in a sector that is **central** to **climate mitigation**, India's energy security, and **macroeconomic** stability. Without sharper **incentives**, CAFE-III risks becoming a framework that manages emissions on paper rather than transforming them **in practice**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Incremental** (adjective) - gradual, progressive, cumulative, step-by-step, piecemeal क्रमिक/अल्पवृद्धि वाला
2. **Emission** (noun) - discharge, release, radiation, exhalation, effusion उत्सर्जन/निकास
3. **Curb** (verb) - restrain, check, bridle, suppress, inhibit नियंत्रित करना/रोकना
4. **Unanimously** (adverb) - collectively, unitedly, consistently, harmoniously, undisputed सर्वसम्मति से
5. **Propose** (verb) - suggest, submit, tender, advance, recommend प्रस्ताव करना/प्रस्तुत करना
6. **Drive** (verb) - impel, propel, urge, motivate, prompt प्रेरित करना/संचालित करना
7. **Overwhelming** (adjective) - staggering, massive, profound, vast, irresistible अत्यधिक/ज़बरदस्त
8. **Carve-out** (noun) - exclusion, exception, exemption, omission, set-aside छूट/अलग रखा गया हिस्सा
9. **Account for** (phrasal verb) - to form a particular amount or part of something का हिस्सा होना/कारण बताना
10. **Meanwhile** (adverb) - simultaneously, concurrently, meantime, interim, through इसी बीच
11. **Meet** (verb) - fulfill, satisfy, comply, achieve, match पूरा करना (लक्ष्य या मानक)
12. **Stringent** (adjective) - rigorous, strict, firm, rigid, severe कठोर/सख्त
13. **In terms of** (phrase) - with regard to the particular aspect or subject being specified के संदर्भ में
14. **Trigger** (verb) - activate, spark, provoke, precipitate, initiate सक्रिय करना/शुरू करना
15. **Relook** (noun) - reappraisal, review, reassessment, reconsideration, revision पुनर्विचार/दोबारा देखना
16. **Norm** (noun) - standard, benchmark, criterion, rule, yardstick मानक/नियम
17. **Marginally** (adverb) - slightly, minimally, barely, somewhat, insignificantly थोड़ा सा/आंशिक रूप से
18. **Counterproductive** (adjective) - harmful, detrimental, adverse, biased, damaging उल्टा असर डालने वाला
19. **Decarbonise** (verb) - reduce carbon कार्बन उत्सर्जन कम करना
20. **At first glance** (phrase) - when you first look at something or think about it पहली नज़र में
21. **Ambitious** (adjective) - aspiring, enterprising, bold, formidable, arduous महत्वाकांक्षी/कठिन
22. **Framework** (noun) - structure, schema, skeleton, anatomy, system रूपरेखा/ढांचा
23. **Compliance** (noun) - adherence, conformity, obedience, observation, submission अनुपालन/आज्ञापालन

24. **Transition** (noun) - transformation, shift, passage, progression, conversion  
परिवर्तन/परिवर्तन काल
25. **Explicit** (adjective) - clear, categorical, unambiguous, overt, precise स्पष्ट/सुस्पष्ट
26. **Monitor** (verb) - observe, track, supervise, scan, scrutinize निगरानी करना
27. **Marginal** (adjective) - peripheral, minor, secondary, slight, borderline मामूली/सीमांत
28. **Electric mobility** (noun) - the use of electric-powered vehicles for transportation purposes इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों का उपयोग
29. **For instance** (phrase) - as an example of something being discussed उदाहरण के लिए
30. **Accumulate** (verb) - amass, gather, collect, stockpile, accrue जमा करना/संचित करना
31. **Laggard** (noun) - slowpoke, dawdler, straggler, loafer, idler पिछड़ जाने वाला/सुस्त
32. **Assess** (verb) - evaluate, judge, appraise, gauge, estimate आकलन करना
33. **Volatility** (noun) - instability, fluctuation, turbulence, caprice, fickleness  
अस्थिरता/परिवर्तनशीलता
34. **Central** (adjective) - pivotal, crucial, essential, fundamental, core मुख्य/केंद्रीय
35. **Climate mitigation** (noun) - efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases जलवायु शमन
36. **Macroeconomic** (adjective) - large-scale, global, systemic, comprehensive, aggregate समष्टि आर्थिक (बड़े पैमाने पर)
37. **Incentive** (noun) - stimulus, inducement, motivation, lure, spur प्रोत्साहन/प्रेरणा
38. **In practice** (phrase) - what actually happens as opposed to what is meant to happen व्यवहार में/वास्तव में

## Summary of the Editorial

1. India's automakers have agreed to new fuel efficiency and emission targets under CAFE-III proposed by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency**.
2. This agreement follows earlier disagreements, especially involving **Maruti Suzuki** and other car manufacturers.
3. The earlier proposal favored small cars, which delayed the transition to cleaner technologies.
4. Small cars account for about 14–15% of passenger vehicle sales in India.
5. Larger carmakers faced stricter targets, creating pricing and investment disadvantages.
6. The revised CAFE-III norms are only marginally better than previous proposals.
7. Some provisions in the new framework may even hinder effective emission reduction.
8. Transport is India's third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.
9. The new target reduces emissions from 113 g/km (CAFE-II) to 77 g/km by 2031–32.
10. The implementation period for CAFE-III is from April 2027 to March 2032.
11. Despite ambitious targets, flexible compliance rules weaken enforcement.
12. The removal of the small-car carve-out is offset by alternative compliance pathways.
13. These include ethanol blending credits and minor efficiency technologies like start-stop systems and regenerative braking.
14. Super-credit mechanisms and credit trading allow companies to meet targets without major structural changes like electrification.
15. Overall, the policy risks becoming ineffective, managing emissions on paper rather than driving real transformation toward electric mobility and sustainability.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best encapsulates the author's primary critique regarding the proposed CAFE-III framework's flexible design?** [Editorial page]
  - A. The framework lacks a definitive and numerically specific headline target for carbon dioxide reduction over the next decade.
  - B. The integration of diverse alternative compliance pathways effectively dilutes the systemic pressure for electrification.
  - C. The elimination of the small-car carve-out has inadvertently made the regulations too stringent for larger automakers.
  - D. The implementation of a three-year assessment block creates an immediate and high-velocity signaling effect for firms.
2. **"This follows a controversy late last year, driven largely by differences between Maruti Suzuki — which commands an overwhelming share of the small-car segment — and other manufacturers."**

In the context of the passage, the word "commands" is closest in grammatical function and meaning to:

  - A. Orders a subordinate to execute a specific task with immediate and absolute authority.
  - B. Possesses or exercises a dominant position of control or influence within a specific field.
  - C. Demands that a new fuel efficiency target be implemented by the sector's standards body.
  - D. Requests a formal relook at the proposed emissions norms due to recent market volatility.
3. **"At a time of fossil fuel volatility, this policy appears too weak to drive meaningful change..." Identify the grammatical role of the underlined phrase "too weak to drive" as utilized in the passage:**
  - A. An adjective phrase indicating a level of insufficiency that prevents a specific result.
  - B. A participial phrase describing the historical volatility of global fossil fuel prices.
  - C. A gerund phrase acting as the primary subject of the sentence's final independent clause.
  - D. An adverbial phrase modifying the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's initial standards proposal.
4. **What does the author imply by asserting that CAFE-III risks "managing emissions on paper rather than transforming them in practice"?**
  - A. The administrative costs of tracking fuel efficiency will likely exceed the actual financial savings from fuel reduction.
  - B. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency has failed to provide a clear and actionable timeline for the 77 g/km target.
  - C. The transition to cleaner fuels is currently being hindered by the persistent lack of consensus among carmakers.
  - D. The framework prioritizes statistical maneuvers and marginal gains instead of driving a profound systemic change.
5. **Choose the word that is most OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "STRINGENT" as used in the passage.**
  - A. Lenient and permissive standards that allow for a considerable degree of deviation.
  - B. Inherent and intrinsic qualities that define the core nature of a specific entity.
  - C. Sporadic and intermittent occurrences that happen at irregular intervals of time.
  - D. Redundant and superfluous elements that exceed the actual requirements of a task.

6. **Direction: The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. S1 and S6 are fixed. Arrange the others (P, Q, R, S) in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
- S1: Google-parent Alphabet has committed to investing up to \$40 billion in Anthropic, deepening its partnership with the AI startup.
- P: This massive capital injection follows a similar move by Amazon, which recently pledged \$25 billion to the company known for its focus on coding models.
- Q: To support this growth, Anthropic has secured multi-year agreements with Broadcom and CoreWeave to bolster its infrastructure.
- R: The deal includes an immediate \$10 billion cash infusion to expand computing capacity, with more funds contingent on meeting performance targets.
- S: Such heavy investment is driven by a critical hunt for compute power to meet the skyrocketing demand for the Claude family of AI models.
- S6: With nearly 1 gigawatt of capacity set to be secured via Amazon's chips, the startup is aggressively scaling to compete in the global AI race.
- A. R-P-S-Q  
B. P-R-Q-S  
C. R-Q-P-S  
D. S-R-P-Q
7. **Which of the following idiom given in the alternatives has the meaning?**  
To make brief contact to get or give an update, check in, or reconnect, often in a professional or personal context.
- A. Touch a sore spot  
B. Put the touch on  
C. Touch base with someone  
D. Touch a chord with someone
8. **Which of the following idioms given in the alternatives has the meaning?**  
It is impossible to get something for nothing; every choice or action has a cost, even if it is not immediately obvious, and these costs can be direct payments, other resources, or the opportunity to have done something else instead.
- A. To footloose and fancy free  
B. Get away scot-free  
C. We must do lunch sometime  
D. There's no such thing as a free lunch
9. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**  
True-blue.
- A. Loyal and steadfast  
B. A long, albeit vague, period of time  
C. A police car  
D. Completely unexpectedly
10. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
- A. Priviledged  
B. Privilaged  
C. Privillaged  
D. Privileged

11. Match the word with its closest synonym. Word: Devote
- A. Waste
  - B. Dedicate
  - C. Ignore
  - D. Delay
12. Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "absurd".
- A. Sensible
  - B. Logical
  - C. Silly
  - D. Smart
13. There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt. Choose the option with the misspelt word.
- The minister assured that the infrastructure projects would be completed within the stipulated time frame despite the opposition raising concerns about cost overuns.
- A. infrastructure
  - B. stipulated
  - C. opposition
  - D. overuns
14. Choose the misspelt word from the given options.
- A. Vociferous
  - B. Amalgamation
  - C. Miscellanious
  - D. Innocuous
15. Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "attention".
- A. Focus
  - B. Concentration
  - C. Disregard
  - D. Notice
16. Choose the word that is the antonym of Forgive.
- A. Pardon
  - B. Excuse
  - C. Condemn
  - D. Absolve
17. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.
- The company decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the use of plastic bags.
- A. band
  - B. banned
  - C. ban
  - D. bane
18. Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.
- A person who lives without luxuries.
- A. Miser
  - B. Ascetic
  - C. Philanthropist

D. Optimist

19. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**

An unconventional lifestyle.

- A. Chauvinism
- B. Bohemian
- C. Hedonism
- D. Dogmatism

20. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**

Mr. Saxena was accused \_\_\_\_\_ theft from the museum.

- A. for
- B. by
- C. of
- D. at

### **Comprehension**

You've just landed after an 18-hour flight, red-eyed and yawning, and (1) \_\_\_ yourself for the usual airport indignities: the (2) \_\_\_ to immigration, the dead-eyed queuing and the endless wait for your bag. Instead, smiling AI-powered autonomous cleaners wipe the spotless floors and immigration moves with the kind of speed that makes you momentarily (3) \_\_\_. In less than 15 minutes, you're curbside in the tropical heat, wondering why the rest of the world still makes this so hard. Days later, after a seamless check-in for your trip back home, you wait for your flight in the airport's transit halls, where there's a free 24/7 cinema, butterfly garden and the world's tallest indoor waterfall. There's even an indoor glass fishpond you can walk over, complete with a digital roof display that (4) \_\_\_ the weather outside. At times you forget you're in an airport, and not a tiny, futuristic city that's exceedingly well-run. This may sound like a (5) \_\_\_ flier's fever dream. In fact it's Singapore's Changi Airport, which has just won the Skytrax Award for World's Best Airport for the second year in a row, and 14 times overall.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**

- A. compose
- B. reconcile
- C. acclimate
- D. brace

22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**

- A. jaunt
- B. stroll
- C. trudge
- D. pilgrimage

23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**

- A. paranoid
- B. apprehensive
- C. suspicious
- D. delirious

24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**

- A. tracks

- B. project
  - C. scan
  - D. mirrors
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. seasoned
  - B. frequent
  - C. habitual
  - D. chronic

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. **B) The integration of diverse alternative compliance pathways effectively dilutes the systemic pressure for electrification.**

Option (B): Option says: New "credits" and "pathways" allow companies to avoid making a real move toward electric vehicles. Passage says: These pathways allow targets to be met "without a structural shift to electric mobility."

Hence Correct.

Option (A): Option says: There is no specific number for CO2 reduction in the new policy. Passage says: It mentions a specific headline reduction from "113 grams... to 77 g/km." Hence Incorrect.

Option (C): Option says: Removing the small-car rule has made the policy unfairly difficult for the major car companies. Passage says: Removing the carve-out was a move toward fairness; the author's critique is that the new rules are "too weak." Hence Incorrect.

Option (D): Option says: Assessing every three years makes companies work faster and provides a very strong signal to the market. Passage says: This "reduces immediate pressure and weakens the signalling effect" that the rules are meant to provide. Hence Incorrect.

2. **B) Possesses or exercises a dominant position of control or influence within a specific field.**

Option (B): Option says: Having a leading or dominant "hold" over a market or segment. Passage says: Maruti Suzuki "commands an overwhelming share," meaning it dominates that segment.

Hence Correct.

Option (A): Option says: Giving an order to someone lower in rank (like a General to a Soldier). Passage says: Used in a business context; the company "possesses" the market share. Hence Incorrect.

Option (C) & (D): Option says: These refer to "demanding" or "requesting" actions from the BEE. Passage says: While Maruti had differences with others, "commands" specifically describes its relationship to the "market share." Hence Incorrect.

3. **A) An adjective phrase indicating a level of insufficiency that prevents a specific result.**

Phrase Structure: "too weak to drive" is an adjective phrase modifying the noun "policy." Function: It uses the structure too + adjective + infinitive ("too weak to drive") to indicate that the policy possesses a degree of weakness that makes it impossible to achieve the result of driving meaningful change. Context: It describes the intensity of the insufficiency ("too weak") and its consequence ("to drive...").

(B): It is not a participial phrase, as it does not start with a present (-ing) or past (-ed/-en) participle.

(C): It is not a gerund phrase (which acts as a noun), but rather an infinitive construction following an adjective.

(D): It is not an adverbial phrase; it modifies the noun "policy," not a verb.

4. D) **The framework prioritizes statistical maneuvers and marginal gains instead of driving a profound systemic change.**

Option (D): Option says: Companies will use "credits" and "averaging" to look clean on the data sheets without actually changing their tech. Passage says: Marginal improvements and super-credits allow targets to be met "without a structural shift." Hence Correct

Option (A): Option says: It will be too expensive for the government to write down and track all the data compared to the benefits. Passage says: The author is worried about the impact of the policy, not the "administrative cost" or "paperwork fees." Hence Incorrect.

Option (C): Option says: The main problem is that car companies can't agree on which fuels to use for the next decade of production. Passage says: Automakers "had unanimously agreed" to the target; the problem is the weak design of the rules, not a lack of agreement. Hence Incorrect.

Option (B): Option says: There is no clear date or plan for when the new 77 g/km emission target must be reached by the sector. Passage says: It explicitly states the target is to be reached "by 2031-32." Hence Incorrect.

5. A) **Lenient and permissive standards that allow for a considerable degree of deviation.**

The word "stringent" means strict, precise, and exacting (e.g., stringent rules). The opposite of stringent is lenient, lax, or permissive.

6. A) Sentence R, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह S1 में घोषित "इन्वेस्टमेंट" का विवरण (breakdown) देता है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक factual ground प्रदान करता है कि \$40 बिलियन में से कितना पैसा नकद है और कितना लक्ष्यों (targets) पर आधारित है।

Sentence P, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" पेश करता है। यह गूगल के निवेश को अमेज़न जैसे अन्य दिग्गजों के पिछले कदमों से जोड़कर बाज़ार की स्थिति का एक big test देता है।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस निवेश की ज़रूरत का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। यह specific detail देता है कि यह सारा पैसा असल में "compute power" की तलाश और 'Claude' मॉडल्स की भारी मांग को पूरा करने के लिए है।

Sentence Q, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक conclusion (निष्कर्ष) की ओर ले जाता है। कंप्यूट पावर की ज़रूरत बताने के बाद, Q उन कंपनियों (Broadcom, CoreWeave) के नाम बताता है जिनके साथ क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए सौदे किए गए हैं, जो सीधे S6 से जुड़ता है।

- Sentence R comes at the beginning because it provides the immediate breakdown of the investment mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground by clarifying the cash-versus-target structure of the \$40 billion deal.
- Sentence P follows Sentence R because it introduces the "Why" or the broader market context. By linking Google's move to Amazon's recent \$25 billion investment, it serves as a critical test of Anthropic's standing in the industry.
- Sentence Q follows Sentence S because it provides an elaboration on the search for compute power. It adds specific details by naming the infrastructure partners (Broadcom and CoreWeave) that will help facilitate this expansion.
- Sentence S follows Sentence P because it serves as the logical bridge to the technical requirements. It explains the motivation behind these massive investments—the desperate hunt for computing power—leading directly into the final infrastructure details in S6.

7. C) **Touch base with someone** (idiom) – To make brief contact to get or give an update or reconnect संक्षिप्त रूप से संपर्क करना
8. D) **There's no such thing as a free lunch** (idiom) – Nothing is truly free; every action or choice has a cost कुछ भी मुफ्त नहीं होता, हर चीज़ की कीमत होती है
9. A) **True-blue** (idiom) – Loyal and steadfast वफादार और दृढ़
10. D) The correct spelling of 'Priviledged / Privilaged / Privillaged' is '**Privileged**', which means "having special rights or advantages" विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त, सौभाग्यशाली।
11. B) **Devote** (verb) – Dedicate, commit, give, apply, consecrate समर्पित करना  
Synonym: **Dedicate** (verb) – Devote, commit, assign, pledge, devote time/effort समर्पित करना
- **Waste** (verb) – Squander, misuse, spend carelessly बर्बाद करना
  - **Ignore** (verb) – Neglect, overlook, disregard अनदेखा करना
  - **Delay** (verb) – Postpone, defer, put off देर करना
12. C) **Absurd** (adjective) – Silly, ridiculous, irrational, foolish, nonsensical हास्यास्पद / मूर्खतापूर्ण  
Synonym: **Silly** (adjective) – Foolish, ridiculous, absurd, senseless, childish मूर्खतापूर्ण
- **Sensible** (adjective) – Practical, reasonable, logical समझदार
  - **Logical** (adjective) – Reasonable, rational, sensible तार्किक
  - **Smart** (adjective) – Intelligent, clever, bright चतुर
13. D) The correct spelling of 'overuns' is '**overruns**', which means "costs that exceed the planned or budgeted amount" लागत से अधिक खर्च।
14. C) The correct spelling of 'Miscellanious' is '**Miscellaneous**', which means "consisting of various types or elements" विविध, विभिन्न प्रकार का।
15. C) **Attention** (noun) – Focus, concentration, notice, awareness, care ध्यान  
Antonym: **Disregard** (noun/verb) – Ignorance, neglect, inattention, indifference, overlook अनदेखी / उपेक्षा
- **Focus** (noun) – Attention, concentration, emphasis ध्यान
  - **Concentration** (noun) – Attention, focus, absorption एकाग्रता
  - **Notice** (noun) – Attention, awareness, observation ध्यान
16. C) **Forgive** (verb) – Pardon, excuse, absolve, overlook, let go क्षमा करना  
Antonym: **Condemn** (verb) – Blame, criticize, denounce, punish, declare guilty निंदा करना / दोष देना
- **Pardon** (verb) – Forgive, excuse, absolve क्षमा करना
  - **Excuse** (verb) – Forgive, overlook, justify माफ करना
  - **Absolve** (verb) – Forgive, pardon, clear of blame दोषमुक्त करना
17. C) **'ban'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में "to" के बाद verb का base form (V1) आता है। यहाँ "to \_\_\_\_\_ the use of plastic bags" में सही grammatical structure के अनुसार base form "ban" ही आएगा। इसलिए, "ban" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- 'ban' should be used because after "to", the base form of the verb is required. In the sentence "to \_\_\_\_\_ the use of plastic bags," the correct form is the base verb "ban." Hence, it is the most appropriate choice.
18. B) **Ascetic** (noun) – A person who lives a simple life without luxuries तपस्वी / संयमी
- **Miser** (noun) – A person who avoids spending money कंजूस

- **Philanthropist** (noun) – A person who helps others, especially by donating money परोपकारी
  - **Optimist** (noun) – A person who expects positive outcomes आशावादी
19. B) **Bohemian** (noun/adjective) – An unconventional or free-spirited lifestyle अपरंपरागत जीवनशैली
- **Chauvinism** (noun) – Excessive patriotism or male superiority पक्षपातपूर्ण देशभक्ति / पुरुष वर्चस्ववाद
  - **Hedonism** (noun) – Pursuit of pleasure as the main goal सुखवाद
  - **Dogmatism** (noun) – Rigid adherence to beliefs हठधर्मिता
20. C) 'of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि English में "accused" के साथ सही preposition "of" ही आता है। सही phrase होता है "accused of something," जिसका अर्थ है किसी पर किसी अपराध का आरोप लगाना। इसलिए, "of" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- 'of' should be used because the correct collocation is "accused of something," which means being charged with a crime. Hence, "of" is the most appropriate preposition in this sentence.
21. D) [**brace**] सही है क्योंकि 'brace yourself' एक idiom है जिसका मतलब किसी बुरी चीज़ (जैसे एयरपोर्ट की लंबी लाइनें और थकान) का सामना करने के लिए खुद को मानसिक रूप से तैयार करना होता है। Compose का मतलब खुद को शांत करना होता है। Reconcile का मतलब किसी अनचाही सच्चाई से समझौता कर लेना होता है। Acclimate का मतलब नए माहौल में ढलना होता है।
- [brace] is correct because "to brace yourself" is a standard idiom meaning to mentally or physically prepare for an unpleasant shock or difficult experience (like those annoying, exhausting airport queues). Compose means to calm your emotions and gather your thoughts. Reconcile means to make peace with a disagreeable reality. Acclimate means to get used to a new climate or environment.
22. C) [**trudge**] सही है क्योंकि यह बहुत थकान भरे और भारी कदमों से घिसट कर चलने को दर्शाता है (18 घंटे की फ्लाइट के बाद इंसान ऐसे ही चलता है)। Jaunt का मतलब मज़े के लिए की गई एक छोटी सी ट्रिप होता है। Stroll का मतलब आराम से टहलना होता है (थका हुआ इंसान टहलता नहीं है)। Pilgrimage का मतलब तीर्थयात्रा होता है।
- [trudge] is correct because it serves as a noun describing a heavy, exhausting, and reluctant walk—exactly how a passenger walks to immigration after an 18-hour flight. Jaunt is a short, cheerful excursion for pleasure. Stroll is a slow, relaxed, and leisurely walk. Pilgrimage is a long journey made for spiritual or religious reasons, which is far too grand a term for walking to an immigration desk.
23. C) [**suspicious**] सही है क्योंकि जब इमिग्रेशन की लाइन उम्मीद से बहुत ज़्यादा तेज़ चलती है, तो यात्री को शक (suspicion) होता है कि 'कुछ गड़बड़ तो नहीं है' (too good to be true)। Paranoid का मतलब पागलपन की हद तक डर जाना होता है। Apprehensive का मतलब भविष्य को लेकर डरा हुआ होना होता है। Delirious का मतलब थकान या बीमारी से सुध-बुध खो बैठना होता है।
- [suspicious] is correct because it describes the feeling of cautious distrust when something happens way too fast and seems "too good to be true" (since immigration usually takes forever). Paranoid is an extreme, irrational fear that someone is out to get you. Apprehensive means being anxious or fearful about what might happen in the

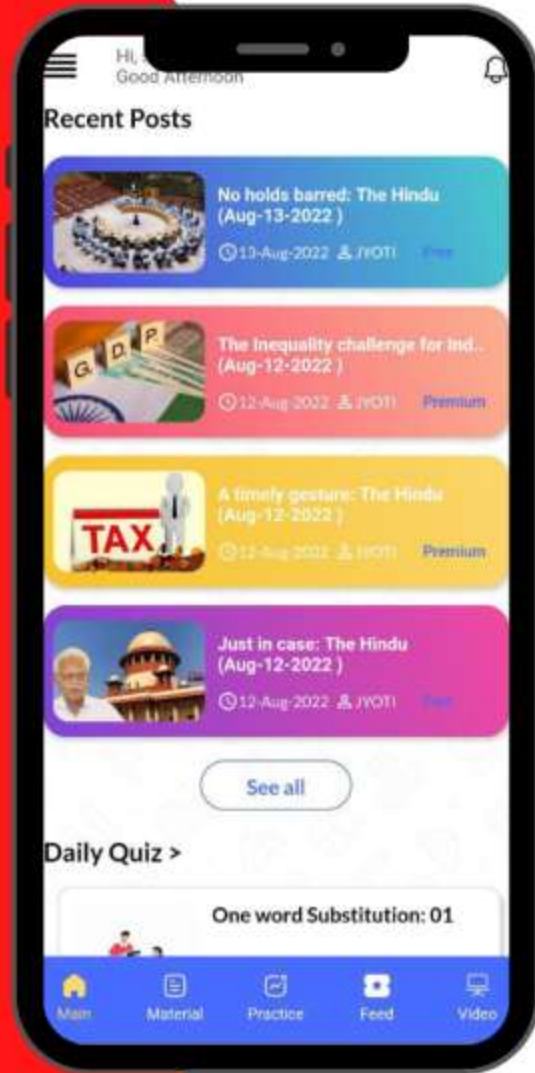
future, whereas "suspicious" is a reaction to what is happening right now. Delirious means being in a state of wild confusion, often from a fever or extreme exhaustion.

24. D) [**mirrors**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ की हूबहू नकल उतारना या उसे स्क्रीन पर reflect करना होता है (छत बाहर के मौसम को हूबहू अंदर दिखाती है)। Grammar के हिसाब से project और scan दोनों गलत हैं क्योंकि subject (display) singular है, इसलिए verb में 's' लगना चाहिए था। Tracks का इस्तेमाल रडार पर रास्ता ट्रैक करने के लिए होता है।

- [mirrors] is correct because it means to accurately reflect or show a real-time copy of something (the digital roof visually copies the real weather outside). Project and scan are grammatically incorrect here; the subject "display" is singular, so the verbs would need an 's' (projects, scans). Tracks is grammatically correct but logically wrong, as it means to follow a flight path or a storm, rather than displaying an exact visual reflection.

25. B) [**frequent**] सही है क्योंकि 'frequent flier' एयरलाइंस का एक फिक्स शब्द है, जो उन यात्रियों के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है जो बहुत ज़्यादा हवाई सफर करते हैं। Seasoned का मतलब तजुर्बेकार (experienced) होता है, लेकिन यह idiom को तोड़ देता है। Habitual का इस्तेमाल अक्सर किसी बुरी आदत के लिए होता है। Chronic का इस्तेमाल लंबे समय से चली आ रही गंभीर बीमारी के लिए होता है।

- frequent] is correct because "frequent flier" is the universal airline industry term and idiom for a passenger who travels regularly. Seasoned is a great distractor meaning highly experienced, but "seasoned flier" breaks the classic idiom. Habitual means doing something constantly, but it usually carries a negative tone (like a habitual liar). Chronic refers to a long-lasting, difficult-to-cure medical problem.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**