

## Sliver of hope: On survey of saltwater crocodiles, conservation

An **inclusive vision** of conservation **can** protect more **habitats**

**The recent survey** of saltwater crocodiles in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve **is** a **notable advance** for conservation in India. The **census** indicates a rise in overall numbers and **demographic diversity**, **implying** an **ecological** success that is also a **marker** of how wildlife law and conservation policy are **gradually** moving beyond their **fixation** on a handful of **charismatic** species, including the tiger and the elephant. In the early years of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, protection was **disproportionately directed** at megafauna whose appeal could **mobilise** public opinion. Saltwater crocodiles do not **command** the same **affection**, so their recovery **demonstrates** how the **statutory framework**, when **coupled with** targeted interventions such as the Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project, **can yield durable** gains even for less **prominent** species. In many countries, reptiles continue to receive weaker safeguards, **often subordinated** to fisheries or land-use concerns. The **increase** in Sundarban crocodiles **suggests** that India's **model** of combining **blanket** legal protection with site-specific **captive breeding** and release programmes **has** been effective. But in **absolute** terms, the law still has gaps: it does not **adequately anticipate** emerging threats linked to climate change, rising **salinity** or habitat **fragmentation**. Protection has also been reactive.

As **hypercarnivorous apex predators**, crocodiles regulate **prey** populations and remove **carcasses** from water channels, contributing to the health of **mangroves**. Thus, their presence signals that **creeks** and rivers still **sustain** a functioning food web despite **immense** pressures from human settlement, cyclones and sea-level rise. Better **juvenile** survival also indicates that the breeding habitat retains sufficient quality. This is an important ecological **marker** for the **delta**, where rising salinity and **erosion** are **narrowing** the **niches** available to wildlife. If the crocodile population can **establish** a **stable** age structure, it may **bolster** the **resilience** of the Sundarbans' mangrove networks. The species' **trajectory** also **highlights** what can be done for other neglected ones. **Current Schedules** under the Act **should** be **accompanied** by **proactive**, well-funded recovery plans, and public communication strategies need to be **recalibrated**. The crocodiles did not gain numbers because they became **beloved** but because conservation agencies invested in their protection. A similar shift in focus can support other species. Climate change integration is also **essential**. Saltwater crocodiles tolerate wide salinity ranges but many **amphibians** or freshwater reptiles do not. **Anticipatory measures** including identifying climate **refugia** and enabling **assisted** breeding **are** thus required. The recovery **illustrates** that **non-charismatic** species can benefit from law and policy with **sustained** attention. For India, the lesson is that a richer, more **inclusive**, vision of conservation is possible and necessary. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Sliver of hope** (phrase) – a very small chance or reason to be optimistic आशा की छोटी सी किरण
2. **Inclusive** (adjective) – comprehensive, broad-based, all-encompassing, embracing, integrative समावेशी
3. **Habitat** (noun) – natural environment, home range, ecosystem, biotope, dwelling place आवास
4. **Notable** (adjective) – remarkable, noteworthy, significant, outstanding, conspicuous उल्लेखनीय
5. **Advance** (noun) – progress, headway, step forward, improvement, breakthrough प्रगति
6. **Census** (noun) – population count, enumeration, survey, headcount, tally जनगणना
7. **Demographic** (adjective) – population-related, population-based, sociodemographic, census-based, statistical जनांकिकीय
8. **Diversity** (noun) – variety, heterogeneity, multiplicity, range, breadth विविधता
9. **Imply** (verb) – suggest, indicate, connote, hint, entail संकेत करना
10. **Ecological** (adjective) – environmental, ecosystemic, bio-ecological, green, eco-centric पारिस्थितिक
11. **Marker** (noun) – indicator, sign, hallmark, benchmark, signal संकेतक
12. **Gradually** (adverb) – slowly, progressively, step-by-step, incrementally, over time धीरे-धीरे
13. **Fixation** (noun) – obsession, preoccupation, single-minded focus, mania, infatuation आसक्ति
14. **Charismatic** (adjective) – magnetic, compelling, captivating, iconic, appealing करिश्माई/आकर्षक
15. **Disproportionately** (adverb) – unduly, excessively, inordinately, out of proportion, overly अनुपात से अधिक
16. **Direct** (verb) – steer, aim, channel, guide, target निर्देशित करना
17. **Mobilise** (verb) – rally, muster, galvanise, marshal, activate जुटाना
18. **Command** (verb) – garner, attract, merit, elicit, deserve प्राप्त/आकर्षित करना
19. **Affection** (noun) – fondness, liking, warmth, tenderness, love स्नेह
20. **Demonstrate** (verb) – show, exhibit, illustrate, prove, manifest प्रदर्शित करना

21. **Statutory** (adjective) – legal, mandated, legislated, codified, by-law वैधानिक
22. **Couple** (with) (verb) – combine with, link with, pair with, join to, accompany के साथ जोड़ना
23. **Yield** (verb) – produce, generate, deliver, give, result in उत्पन्न करना
24. **Durable** (adjective) – long-lasting, enduring, robust, resilient, hard-wearing टिकाऊ
25. **Prominent** (adjective) – leading, notable, eminent, conspicuous, standout प्रमुख
26. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, many times अक्सर
27. **Subordinate** (verb) – relegate, downgrade, demote, make secondary, place beneath अधीन करना
28. **Blanket** (adjective) – comprehensive, across-the-board, sweeping, universal, all-encompassing सर्वव्यापी
29. **Captive breeding** (noun) – the process of keeping plants or animals in controlled environments, such as wildlife reserves, zoos, botanic gardens, and other conservation facilities.
30. **Absolute** (adjective) – total, complete, unequivocal, unqualified, outright पूर्ण
31. **Adequately** (adverb) – sufficiently, suitably, appropriately, satisfactorily, enough पर्याप्त रूप से
32. **Anticipate** (verb) – foresee, expect, predict, envision, look ahead to पूर्वानुमान करना
33. **Salinity** (noun) – saltiness, salt content, brininess, saline level, salt concentration खारापन
34. **Fragmentation** (noun) – breaking up, division, splintering, disintegration, segmentation विखंडन
35. **Hypercarnivorous** (adjective) – an animal that derives more than 70% of its diet from animal flesh अत्यधिक मांसाहारी
36. **Apex predator** (noun) – an animal that kills and eats other animals but is not normally eaten by any other animals.
37. **Prey** (noun) – quarry, victim species, game, target, food species शिकार/आहार-प्राणी
38. **Carcass** (noun) – animal corpse, remains, cadaver, carrion, dead body शव/मृतदेह
39. **Mangrove** (noun) – a tidal swamp which is dominated by mangroves. मैंग्रोव/ज्वारीय वन
40. **Creek** (noun) – tidal channel, inlet, streamlet, backwater, estuarine channel खाड़ी/नाला

41. **Sustain** (verb) – maintain, uphold, support, nourish, keep going बनाए रखना
42. **Immense** (adjective) – enormous, vast, colossal, massive, tremendous अत्यंत विशाल
43. **Juvenile** (adjective) – young, immature, adolescent, subadult, fledgling किशोर
44. **Marker** (noun) – indicator, sign, hallmark, benchmark, cue संकेतक
45. **Delta** (noun) – a triangular tract of sediment deposited at the mouth of a river, typically where it diverges into several outlets. डेल्टा/नदीमुख समतल
46. **Erosion** (noun) – wearing away, degradation, scouring, abrasion, denudation अपरदन/कटाव
47. **Narrow** (verb) – constrict, contract, reduce, shrink, taper संकरा/घटाना
48. **Niche** (noun) – A niche is an organism's specific position or purpose within the group of organisms with which it lives भूमिका
49. **Establish** (verb) – set up, create, found, institute, secure स्थापित करना
50. **Stable** (adjective) – steady, constant, firm, balanced, secure स्थिर
51. **Bolster** (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, buttress, fortify, shore up मज़बूत करना
52. **Resilience** (noun) – robustness, adaptability, bounce-back ability, hardiness, resistance संकट-झेलने की क्षमता
53. **Trajectory** (noun) – path, course, trend, arc, progression पथ/प्रवृत्ति/दिशा
54. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, underscore, spotlight, showcase, bring to the fore ज़ोर देना
55. **Accompany** (verb) – go with, attend, coincide with, be coupled with, come with साथ होना
56. **Proactive** (adjective) – preventive, anticipatory, pre-emptive, forward-looking, ahead-of-the-curve सक्रिय
57. **Recalibrated** (adjective) – readjusted, realigned, retuned, reoriented, reset पुनर्समायोजित
58. **Beloved** (adjective) – cherished, much-loved, dear, adored, popular प्रिय/अत्यंत प्रिय
59. **Essential** (adjective) – vital, indispensable, crucial, fundamental, necessary आवश्यक
60. **Amphibian** (noun) – frog, toad, salamander, newt, caecilian उभयचर
61. **Anticipatory** (adjective) – predictive, preparatory, forward-looking, pre-emptive, expectant पूर्वतैयार

62. **Refugia** (noun) – refuges, climate shelters, safe habitats, sanctuaries, refuge areas  
आश्रयस्थल/शरण-स्थल uncharismatic, non-iconic गैर-करिश्माई/कम आकर्षक
63. **Assist** (verb) – help, aid, support, facilitate, back सहायता करना 66. **Sustained** (adjective) – continuous, ongoing, prolonged, persistent, steady सतत
64. **Illustrate** (verb) – demonstrate, exemplify, show, depict, clarify उदाहरण देकर समझाना/दर्शाना 67. **Inclusive** (adjective) – all-embracing, comprehensive, broad-based, embracing, integrative समावेशी
65. **Non-charismatic** (adjective) – unglamorous, low-profile, less appealing,

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Sundarban survey shows a rise in saltwater crocodile numbers and age diversity—an ecological win.
2. Signals a policy shift beyond over-focus on charismatic megafauna (tiger, elephant).
3. Early Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 efforts were skewed toward species that mobilised public sentiment.
4. Crocodiles, though less “beloved,” rebounded—proof that law + targeted interventions can work.
5. The Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project exemplifies effective captive breeding and releases.
6. Compared to many countries where reptiles get weaker safeguards, India’s combined model (blanket legal cover + site-specific action) is working.
7. Gaps remain: laws don’t fully anticipate climate change, rising salinity, or habitat fragmentation; protection has been reactive.
8. As apex, hypercarnivorous predators, crocodiles regulate prey and remove carcasses, improving mangrove waterway health.
9. Their presence indicates functioning food webs despite pressures from settlements, cyclones, sea-level rise.
10. Higher juvenile survival implies breeding habitats still retain quality in a salinity-stressed delta.
11. A stable age structure could enhance the resilience of Sundarban mangrove networks.
12. Lesson for policy: pair Schedules under the Act with proactive, well-funded recovery plans and improved public communication.
13. Crocodiles grew in number due to institutional investment, not popularity—so non-charismatic species can also thrive with intent.
14. Integrate climate strategies now: identify climate refugia, support assisted breeding, especially for amphibians/freshwater reptiles less tolerant to salinity.
15. Overall message: India can—and must—pursue a richer, more inclusive conservation vision that protects broader habitats and species.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which option best captures the author's tone toward the crocodile survey and conservation policy?** [Editorial page]
  - A. Celebratory triumphalism
  - B. Measured optimism with policy critique
  - C. Alarmist pessimism
  - D. Neutral reportage
2. **Which statement best expresses the central argument of the passage?**
  - A. The Sundarbans will inevitably lose biodiversity without crocodiles, making all other measures secondary.
  - B. India should pivot its flagship conservation focus from tigers and elephants to crocodiles exclusively.
  - C. The crocodile recovery shows that non-charismatic species can thrive when law and site-specific interventions are sustained, and India must widen conservation to proactive, climate-integrated recovery plans and communication beyond megafauna.
  - D. Captive breeding alone explains the gains and should be scaled nationally as a one-size-fits-all solution.
3. **Choose the grammatically correct verb.**

A rise in overall numbers and demographic diversity \_\_\_\_\_ an ecological success in the Sundarbans.

  - A. imply
  - B. implies
  - C. have implied
  - D. are implying
4. **Choose the option that yields a clear and correct pronoun reference.**

Saltwater crocodiles tolerate wide salinity ranges, but many amphibians do not. \_\_\_\_\_ underscores the need to identify climate refugia.

  - A. These
  - B. This
  - C. They
  - D. It
5. **Which development, if observed over the next decade, would most strongly confirm the author's claim that crocodile recovery can bolster the Sundarbans' ecological resilience?**
  - A. A stable age pyramid with higher juvenile survival and consistent recruitment, alongside fewer carcasses accumulating in creeks.
  - B. A national media campaign that markedly increases public affection for reptiles.
  - C. A temporary spike in adult crocodile counts after one-off mass releases, with poor juvenile retention.
  - D. Rising fishery yields driven by intensified fishing within crocodile habitats.
6. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**

S1: On September 9-10, 2023, New Delhi hosted the G-20 Summit, which resolved to accelerate the full and effective implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

P: On September 18-19, 2023, an “SDG Summit” was convened at the United Nations

Q: With an all-women team, they emphasise sustainable practices and community support, creating timeless pieces that promote responsible consumption and redefine the relationship between style and sustainability.

R: This focus on handcrafting was a deliberate choice from the beginning, they share.

S: headquarters to follow up and review the implementation of the Agenda and the progress of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

S4: A “Summit of the Future” took place on September 22-23, 2024, at the UN headquarters to build upon the SDG Summit 2023 and its commitments by member nations.

A. P and Q

B. P and R

C. P and S

D. Q and S

7. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the idiom**

Break fresh/new ground

A. To build a new house

B. To do something that was not done before

C. To talk to stranger

D. To dig a well

8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive form.**

The shopkeeper lifted the shutter to open his shop.

A. To open his shop, the shutter is lifted by the shopkeeper.

B. The shutter was lifted by the shopkeeper to open his shop.

C. The shutter is being lifted by the shopkeeper to open his shop.

D. The shutter will be lifted by the shopkeeper to open his shop.

9. **Choose the option most similar in meaning to the underlined word(s).**

He kept his eyes peeled and his ears pricked for some important clue.

A. hint

B. inkling

C. intimation

D. signal

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

The interference of the police force would have controlled the situation.

A. The situation could have been controlled by the interference of the police force.

B. The situation could be controlled by the interference of the police force.

C. The situation would have been controlled by the interference of the police force.

D. The situation would be controlled by the interference of the police force.

11. **Choose the option most opposite in meaning to the underlined word(s).**

He was deeply depressed over the news.

A. satisfied

B. elated

C. impressed

D. affected

12. **Choose the option most similar in meaning to the underlined word(s).**

- The spectators looked at the batsman in amazement when he hit sixer after sixer.
- A. shock
  - B. wonder
  - C. surprise
  - D. suspicion
13. **Choose the option that best describes the meaning of the underlined idiom/phrase.**  
I always preferred to study Physics and Mathematics, now choosing Economics and Literature for further studies is another kettle of fish.
- A. Completely different matter
  - B. Slightly different matter
  - C. Completely difficult matter
  - D. Doing things in a hurry
14. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A) While he was doing this, he missed seeing a velvet purse full of gold coins lying on the road.
  - B) Ramesh always worried about how he would become sick and weak in old age.
  - C) To try how he would cope with blindness, Ramesh started walking with his eyes closed.
  - D) He feared that he might even lose his sight and go blind.
- A. DBAC
  - B. BCAD
  - C. BDCA
  - D. CABD
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**  
The secretary has planted a lot of saplings to save the environment
- A. A lot of saplings were planted by the secretary to save the environment.
  - B. A lot of saplings are being planted by the secretary to save the environment.
  - C. A lot of saplings are planted by the secretary to save the environment.
  - D. A lot of saplings have been planted by the secretary to save the environment.
16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
Irreverent behaviour toward anything held sacred or concerning God.
- A. Agnosticism
  - B. Pantheism
  - C. Theism
  - D. Blasphemy
17. **Choose the option most opposite in meaning to the underlined word(s).**  
Though he had lost the battle, he decided not to yield to the enemy.
- A. submit to
  - B. persuade
  - C. resist
  - D. seek terms with
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
Capable of or adapted for turning easily from one to another of various tasks, fields of endeavour, etc. and is able to do many things
- A. Versatile

- B. Turncoat  
C. Talented  
D. Flexible
19. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A) I took a deep breath and inhaled the air.  
B) It was a fine spring morning.  
C) As soon as I entered the garden, lush green grass welcomed me.  
D) The freshness in the air drew my feet towards a garden.
- A. ACBD  
B. CADB  
C. CDAB  
D. BADC
20. **Which one of the following alternatives has the correct spelling?**
- A. Resilient  
B. Resilint  
C. Risilient  
D. Realisent

**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.**

Silence is not merely the lack of noise; it \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ the presence of comprehension and respect for community. Silence carries deep meaning. Indeed, it serves as a refuge where thoughts can settle and clarity arises. In a world fixated on opinions and responses, silence \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ provides reflection, tranquillity, and inner resilience. It \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ more profoundly than speech when emotions are both uplifting and difficult, enabling us to \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ hear others and ourselves. Being silent is a skill; it reflects the ability to manage and discipline \_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**
- A. embody  
B. embodies  
C. embodying  
D. embodied
22. **What should come in the place of 2.**
- A. awkwardly  
B. boorishly  
C. derisively  
D. gracefully
23. **What should come in the place of 3.**
- A. dissonates  
B. mollifies  
C. resonates  
D. eschews
24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

- A. genuinely
  - B. feignedly
  - C. insidiously
  - D. inexorably
25. **What should come in the place of 5.**
- A. yourself
  - B. oneself
  - C. himself
  - D. herself

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

### 1. B) **Measured optimism with policy critique**

The passage notes rising numbers and effective interventions, yet stresses legal gaps, climate threats, and the need for anticipatory measures—hopeful but critical.

A (Wrong): The piece isn't a victory lap; it flags gaps (climate, reactive protection).

C (Wrong): Not doom-laden; it presents a “sliver of hope” and workable solutions.

D (Wrong): It argues for shifts in policy and communication—clearly evaluative, not neutral.

### 2. C) The crocodile recovery shows that non-charismatic species can thrive when law and site-specific interventions are sustained, and India must widen conservation to proactive, climate-integrated recovery plans and communication beyond megafauna.

The passage uses the crocodile survey as proof that inclusive policy (legal protection + site-specific breeding/release) works, urging proactive, climate-aware plans and better public communication for neglected species.

A (Wrong): Overstates and narrows the claim; the author emphasizes systems-level, multi-species policy, not a single-species linchpin.

B (Wrong): Misreads the argument; it's about broadening beyond charismatic megafauna, not replacing one emblem with another.

D (Wrong): Oversimplifies; the text credits a combination of blanket legal protection, targeted projects, and calls for climate integration—not captive breeding alone.

### 3. B) **implies**

Head noun is rise (singular); the prepositional phrase “in overall numbers and demographic diversity” doesn't change the number → singular verb “implies”.

A imply: plural verb with singular subject.

C have implied: plural auxiliary + unnecessary present perfect.

D implying: plural progressive; tense/aspect not needed for a general statement.

### 4. B) **This**

This (singular demonstrative) refers to the entire preceding idea/contrast (crocodiles tolerate; amphibians don't), neatly packaging the proposition as a single fact that “underscores” the need.

A These: plural; there's no clear plural antecedent for a set of items.

C They: would point to “amphibians” (nearest plural noun), changing the meaning.

D It: ambiguous—could refer to “salinity ranges” or another singular noun, not the full idea.

### 5. A) A stable age pyramid with higher juvenile survival and consistent recruitment, alongside fewer carcasses accumulating in creeks.

The passage links better juvenile survival → good breeding habitat → stable age structure, and notes apex predators remove carcasses and support a functioning food web. These together indicate real, system-level resilience.

B: The passage says recovery wasn't due to becoming “beloved”; popularity ≠ ecological resilience.

C: One-off releases without juvenile retention don't create a stable age structure; resilience needs sustained recruitment.

D: Intensified fishing often conflicts with reptile safeguards; not cited as a path to resilience.

6. C) **P and S**

S2 (P): This sentence logically follows S1, continuing the focus on sustainability and the UN's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

S3 (S): This sentence builds on S2, explaining the purpose of the SDG Summit and linking to the focus on tracking the progress of the SDGs.

R: This sentence seems to be about crafting and personal choice, which does not relate to the broader themes of international summits, sustainable development, or the UN Agenda.

Q: Although this sentence mentions sustainability, it's focused on a specific team's work in fashion or business rather than discussing international policy or the UN's global sustainability agenda.

7. B) **Break fresh/new ground** (idiom) – To do something that was not done before जो पहले नहीं किया गया था, वह करना।

8. B) **The shutter was lifted by the shopkeeper to open his shop**

Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "The shopkeeper" Subject है, "lifted" Verb (Past Simple) है और "the shutter" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The shutter" Subject बन गया है। Verb को "was lifted" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the shopkeeper" के रूप में Agent के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है। Passive वाक्य:

The shutter was lifted by the shopkeeper to open his shop.

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice: The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The shopkeeper" (Subject), "lifted" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the shutter" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The shutter" (Subject), "was lifted" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "by the shopkeeper" (Agent). Passive Sentence: The shutter was lifted by the shopkeeper to open his shop.

9. A) **Clue** (noun) – A piece of evidence or information used to solve a problem or mystery. संकेत, सुराग

- **Synonym: Hint** (noun) – A slight or indirect indication or suggestion. इशारा, संकेत
- **Inkling** (noun) – A vague idea or slight suspicion. आभास, अंदेशा
- **Intimation** (noun) – A subtle or indirect communication, a formal notification. सूचना, इशारा
- **Signal** (noun) – A gesture, action, or sound used to convey information. संकेत

10. C) **The situation would have been controlled by the interference of the police force**

Active वाक्य में "The interference of the police force" Subject है, "would have controlled" Verb (Past Perfect Conditional) है, और "the situation" Object है। Passive में बदलने के लिए:

Active वाक्य का Object, यानी "the situation", Passive वाक्य का Subject बनता है। Verb को Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए "would have been controlled" (Past Perfect Conditional Passive) का use किया गया है। "by the interference of the police force" को Agent के रूप में जोड़ा गया है। इस प्रकार, Passive वाक्य है: "The situation would have been controlled by the interference of the police force."

In the active voice, "The interference of the police force" is the Subject, "would have controlled" is the Verb (Past Perfect Conditional), and "the situation" is the Object.

- To transform into passive voice: The Object of the active sentence, "the situation," becomes the Subject of the passive sentence. The Verb is changed to the passive form, "would have been controlled" (Past Perfect Conditional Passive). The agent, "by the interference of the police force," is added. Thus, the passive sentence is: "The situation would have been controlled by the interference of the police force."

11. B) **Depressed** (adjective) – Sad, dejected, gloomy, disheartened, melancholy. उदास / निराश

- Antonym: **Elated** (adjective) – Overjoyed, jubilant, delighted, ecstatic, euphoric. प्रसन्न / अत्यंत खुश
- **Satisfied** – Content, pleased, fulfilled. संतुष्ट
- **Impressed** – Influenced, touched, moved. प्रभावित
- **Affected** – Impacted, touched, stirred. प्रभावित

12. B) **Amazement** (noun) – Great wonder, astonishment, awe, admiration, stupefaction. आश्चर्य / विस्मय

- Synonym: **Wonder** (noun) – A feeling of amazement and admiration caused by something beautiful, remarkable, or unfamiliar. विस्मय
- **Shock** (noun) – Sudden upsetting or disturbing experience. आघात / सदमा
- **Surprise** (noun) – Something unexpected but not always equal to deep amazement. अचम्भा
- **Suspicion** (noun) – A feeling that something is wrong or someone is guilty. संदेह / शक

13. A) **Another kettle of fish** (idiom) – Completely different matter पूरी तरह से अलग मामला

14. C) **BDCA**

B starts the sentence with the subject "Ramesh", introducing the main character and his primary concern. This sets the context for the rest of the sentences.

D follows B because it logically extends Ramesh's fear by specifying "he might even lose his sight and go blind", which connects directly to the next action.

C comes after D as it introduces the action "started walking with his eyes closed", which is a direct response to his fear of going blind (mentioned in D).

A concludes the sequence by describing the consequence of his action ("he missed seeing a velvet purse full of gold coins"), providing a complete narrative.

In Hindi:

- B sentence की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह subject "Ramesh" को introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि कौन चिंतित है।

- D, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Ramesh के डर (fear) को विस्तार से बताता है – "उसकी नज़र जा सकती है और वह अंधा हो सकता है", जो अगले action से जुड़ता है।
- C, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Ramesh की प्रतिक्रिया (action) को दिखाता है – "अपनी आँखें बंद करके चलना शुरू किया", जो उसके अंधेपन के डर से संबंधित है।
- A sentence को पूरा करता है क्योंकि यह उसके action का परिणाम (consequence) बताता है – "सोने के सिक्कों से भरा पर्स नहीं देख पाया"।

15. D) A lot of saplings have been planted by the secretary to save the environment.

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में Object "a lot of saplings" को Subject बनाया गया। Verb को Present Perfect Tense Passive में बदलते हुए "have been planted" का use किया गया और Agent "by the secretary" जोड़ा गया। अतः सही वाक्य बना: "A lot of saplings have been planted by the secretary to save the environment."

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In the passive sentence, the object "a lot of saplings" becomes the subject. The verb is changed to the passive form in Present Perfect Tense, which is "have been planted," and the agent "by the secretary" is added. Therefore, the correct sentence is: "A lot of saplings have been planted by the secretary to save the environment."

16. D) **Blasphemy** (noun) – Irreverent behaviour toward anything held sacred or concerning God. ईश्वरनिंदा

- **Agnosticism** (noun) – The view that the truth of certain claims, especially regarding the existence or nature of God, is unknown or unknowable. अज्ञेयवाद
- **Pantheism** (noun) – The belief that everything composes an all-encompassing, immanent God, or that the universe (or nature) and God are equivalent. सर्वव्यापकवाद
- **Theism** (noun) – Belief in the existence of a god or gods, especially belief in a personal God as creator and ruler of the world. ईश्वरवाद

17. C) **Yield to** (verb phrase) – Submit to, give in, surrender, capitulate, succumb झुक जाना, आत्मसमर्पण करना

- Antonym: **Resist** (verb) – Withstand, oppose, defy, confront, repel विरोध करना, प्रतिरोध करना
- **Submit to** (verb phrase) – Accept or yield to authority or force, comply, surrender. आत्मसमर्पण करना
- **Persuade** (verb) – Convince, induce, influence, prevail upon मनाना
- **Seek terms with** (verb phrase) – Try to negotiate or make an arrangement समझौता करना

18. A) **Versatile** (adjective) – Capable of or adapted for turning easily from one to another of various tasks, fields of endeavour, etc., and is able to do many things. बहुमुखी

- **Turncoat** (noun) – a person who deserts one party or cause in order to join an opposing one. दलबदलू
- **Talented** (adjective) – having natural aptitude or skill for something. प्रतिभाशाली
- **Flexible** (adjective) – capable of bending easily without breaking; willing to change or compromise. लचीला

## 19. D) BADC

B starts the sentence by introducing the setting: "It was a fine spring morning." This establishes the time and atmosphere, making it a natural beginning.

A follows B because it logically continues the description of the morning by focusing on the speaker's action: "I took a deep breath and inhaled the air." This connects to the "fine spring morning" mentioned in B.

D comes next as it explains the effect of the fresh air: "The freshness in the air drew my feet towards a garden." This provides a reason for the next action (entering the garden).

C concludes the sequence by describing what happened upon entering the garden: "As soon as I entered the garden, lush green grass welcomed me." This completes the logical flow from feeling the air to being drawn to the garden and finally experiencing it.

In Hindi:

- B sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह setting ("It was a fine spring morning.") को introduce करता है, जो समय और माहौल को स्थापित करता है।
- A, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह speaker के action ("I took a deep breath...") को बताता है, जो B में बताए गए मौसम से जुड़ता है।
- D, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि ताजी हवा का क्या प्रभाव हुआ ("The freshness... drew my feet towards a garden."), जो अगले action (गार्डन में जाना) का कारण बताता है।
- C sequence को पूरा करता है, क्योंकि यह बताता है कि गार्डन में प्रवेश करने पर क्या हुआ ("lush green grass welcomed me"), जिससे पूरी घटना का logical flow complete होता है।

20. A) The correct spelling is '**Resilient**' which means "able to recover quickly; flexible/tough" – लचीला, शीघ्र उबरने वाला.

21. B) '**embodies**' का use होगा क्योंकि "it" singular subject है और वाक्य सामान्य सत्य/परिभाषा बताता है; इसलिए simple present का singular verb चाहिए। 'embodies' का अर्थ है साकार करना/प्रतिनिधित्व करना, जो अर्थ में फिट बैठता है कि silence समझ और समुदाय-सम्मान की उपस्थिति को साकार करता है। जबकि 'embody' base form है जिसे infinitive/auxiliary चाहिए; 'embodying' participle है, जिसे helping verb या modifier की स्थिति चाहिए; और 'embodied' past form है, जो completed action बताता है—यहाँ timeless definition नहीं बनती।

- '**Embodies**' will be used because "it" is a singular subject and the sentence states a general truth, so the simple present singular verb is required. "Embodies" means to represent or give concrete form to, which fits the idea that silence embodies the presence of comprehension and respect. Whereas, "embody" is a base form needing an infinitive or auxiliary; "embodying" is a participle that requires a helping verb or

functions as a modifier; and "embodied" is past/past participle implying a completed action, which does not suit a timeless definition.

22. D) **Gracefully** का use होगा क्योंकि "gracefully" का अर्थ होता है सहज, सुसंस्कृत और सुंदर ढंग से। यहाँ adverb चाहिए जो verb 'provides' को modify करे: "silence gracefully provides...". वाक्य में silence के सकारात्मक प्रभाव (reflection, tranquillity, inner resilience) बताए गए हैं, इसलिए 'gracefully' उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'awkwardly' का अर्थ है असहज/भद्दे ढंग से, 'boorishly' का अर्थ है असभ्य/अशिष्ट ढंग से, और 'derisively' का अर्थ है उपहासपूर्ण ढंग से—ये नकारात्मक भाव हैं, इसलिए context में सही नहीं हैं।

- '**Gracefully**' will be used because it means in a smooth, elegant, dignified manner. An adverb is required to modify the verb 'provides': "silence gracefully provides...". The sentence praises silence's positive role (reflection, tranquillity, inner resilience), so 'gracefully' fits. Whereas, 'awkwardly' = clumsily, 'boorishly' = rudely/uncouthly, and 'derisively' = mockingly; these carry negative tones and don't suit the context.

23. C) **Resonates** का use होगा क्योंकि "resonate" का अर्थ होता है गूंजना/मन में गहराई तक उतरना। वाक्य "It \_\_\_ more profoundly than speech" में silence के असर को शब्दों से भी अधिक गहरा बताया गया है, इसलिए 'resonates' सही है; व्याकरण की दृष्टि से यह अकर्मक क्रिया है और "more profoundly than speech" जैसा comparative adverbial इसके साथ स्वाभाविक बैठता है।

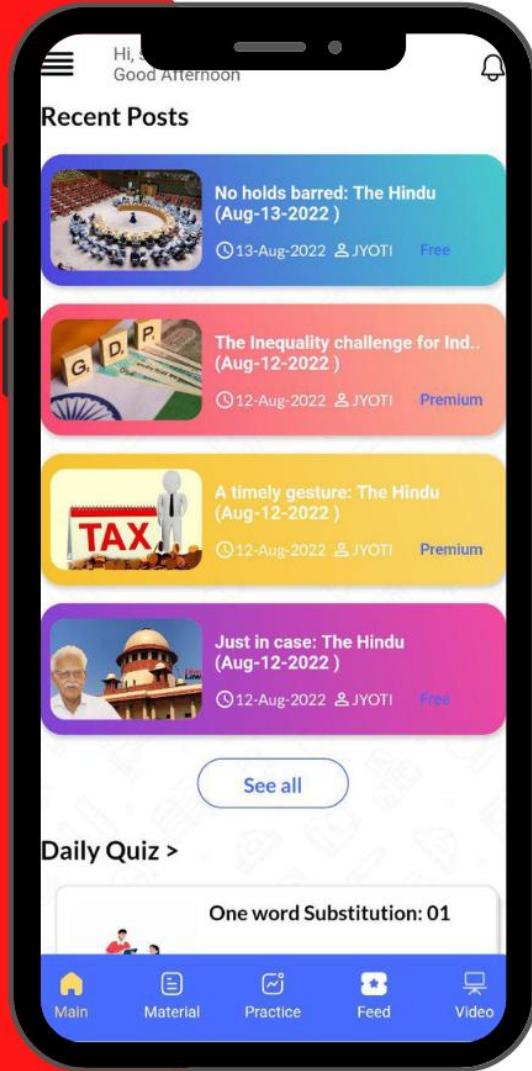
- '**Resonates**' will be used because it means to echo/connect deeply; "It resonates more profoundly than speech" is grammatically sound (intransitive verb + comparative adverb "more profoundly" + "than speech"). Whereas, 'dissonates' is non-standard/rare and semantically off; 'mollifies' is transitive (needs an object) and means "to soothe," which doesn't fit; 'eschews' is transitive (needs an object) meaning "to avoid," so "It eschews more profoundly..." is ungrammatical and illogical here.

24. A) **Genuinely** का use होगा क्योंकि "genuinely" का अर्थ होता है सच-मुच/ईमानदारी से, और वाक्य में "enabling us to \_\_\_ hear others and ourselves" का भाव है कि हम दूसरों और स्वयं को सच्चाई से सुन पाएं। यहाँ adverb "genuinely" क्रिया "hear" को सही तरह से modify करता है (to + adverb + verb एक स्वीकार्य split infinitive है)। जबकि 'feignedly' का अर्थ है बनावटी ढंग से (जो अर्थ के विपरीत है), 'insidiously' का अर्थ है कपटपूर्ण/धीरे-धीरे हानिकारक ढंग से (सुनने के साथ प्राकृतिक संगति नहीं), और 'inexorably' का अर्थ है अडिग/अपरिहार्य रूप से (क्रिया "hear" के साथ अर्थगत मेल नहीं), इसलिए ये यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- '**Genuinely**' will be used because it means truly/sincerely, and the clause "enabling us to \_\_\_ hear others and ourselves" needs an adverb that conveys authentic listening. Here the adverb "genuinely" correctly modifies the verb "hear" (a to-adverb-verb split infinitive is acceptable in modern usage). Whereas 'feignedly' means in a pretended way (opposite to the intended sense), 'insidiously' means in a stealthily harmful way (poor collocation with "hear"), and 'inexorably' means relentlessly/inevitably (doesn't semantically fit with "hear"), so they are incorrect in this context.

25. B) '**oneself**' का use होगा क्योंकि वाक्य सामान्य/impersonal truth बताता है—“Being silent is a skill; it reflects the ability to manage and discipline \_\_\_\_.” यहाँ generic reflexive चाहिए, इसलिए '**oneself**' सही है। जबकि '**yourself**' second person है (you), '**himself**' पुरुष-विशेष है, और '**herself**' स्त्री-विशेष—ये तीनों संदर्भ के generic अर्थ और person consistency से मेल नहीं खाते।

- '**oneself**' will be used because the sentence states a general truth and needs a generic reflexive pronoun. '**yourself**' is second-person, '**himself**' is male-specific, and '**herself**' is female-specific; none of these fit the impersonal, universally applicable context.



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