

Read the passage. Then answer the questions below 1, 2 and 3. [Unit-06; Lesson-03]

The Republic of Maldives is an island country in the Indian Ocean. It has 1199 islands that are clustered into 26 major atolls. An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef or a string of closely spaced coral islands. The natural coral reefs of the Maldives are surrounded by the sea all around and stand out as a pearl in the Indian Ocean. The Maldives is the eighth smallest country in the world with an area of only 300 square kilometers. It is the smallest Asian country in terms of population and size. People have been living on the islands of the Maldives for nearly 3000 years. They set sail from different parts of the world – Asia, Arabia, Europe and America—to come to these islands. The earliest settlers of the Maldives were probably from southern India and Sri Lanka who came to these islands in the fourth and fifth centuries BC. In the 12th century AD, sailors from East Africa and Arab countries came to the Maldives. As a result, the Maldivians who were originally Buddhists were converted to Sunni Islam in the mid-12th century. In 1344 Ibn Batuta, a famous Arab historian and scholar travelled around the Maldives.

In the 16th century, the Portuguese conquered the Maldives and ruled the country for 15 years. Although governed as an independent Islamic sultanate for most of its history from 1153 to 1968, the Maldives was a British colony from 1887 to 1965. Following independence from Britain in 1965, the sultanate continued to operate for another 3 years. On November 11, 1968, the sultanate was abolished and replaced by a republic and the country assumed its present name. The Maldives is famous as a tourist destination because of its pleasant weather, heavenly beaches and lagoons, luxurious holiday resorts and the peace-loving people. The Maldives was ranked as the best country for beautiful beaches and facilities for recreation in 2008. The Maldives is well known for being the lowest country in the world. Unfortunately, this small country with idyllic natural beauty is under threat from rising sea levels due to global warming. Most of the country is just 1.5 meters above sea level with the highest point of 2.3 meters! Many predictions have been made with respect to Maldives being swept away by the rising water level in the Indian Ocean. When the power tsunami of 2004 hit the island nation, many of the island's dry parts were flooded by the sea water. The government of the Maldives has begun to purchase land from nearby countries for resettling its people in case the islands go under water! In order to highlight the threats of global warming to its low lying islands, the government of Maldives held a cabinet meeting underwater in 2009. That was the first ever underwater cabinet meeting in the world. The meeting took place about 5 meters underwater, in a blue- green lagoon on a small island. While underwater, the cabinet signed a document calling on all nations to cut their carbon emissions.

(a) The tourists have a great ____ for visiting the Maldives. [DB'19]

- (i) devotion (ii) attraction (iii) destination (iv) attention

(b) Which of the following words best describes the weather of the Maldives? [DB'19]

- (i) unpleasant (ii) tropical (iii) warm (iv) enjoyable

- (c) The Maldives is well recognized around the world for its _____. [DB'19]
(i) smallness as a country (ii) multi-racial culture (iii) lowest land (iv) threat of global warming
- (d) During the tsunami of 2004, many parts of the country were _____. [DB'19]
(i) submerged (ii) dried (iii) uprooted (iv) eroded
- (e) The word 'idyllic' in the phrase 'idyllic natural beauty' means _____. [DB'19]
(i) ideal (ii) very beautiful (iii) very peaceful (iv) idol shaped
- (f) Global warming is a _____ to the Maldives. [DB'19]
(i) threat (ii) victim (iii) dangerous (iv) warning
- (g) The Maldives is faced with the threat of _____. [DB'19]
(i) tsunami over and over again (ii) serious water pollution
(iii) disappearing from the map (iv) extinction of its aquatic animals
- (h) The word 'heavenly' is a/an _____.
(i) noun (ii) adverb (iii) Both of these (iv) None of these
- (i) This small country with _____ natural beauty is under threat from rising sea levels.
(i) electrifying (ii) dazzling (iii) serene (iv) craving
- (j) The government of the Maldives has begun to _____ land from nearby countries.
(i) vend (ii) procure (iii) cure (iv) shift
- (k) Many _____ have been made with respect to Maldives being swept away by the rising water level.
(i) shots (ii) prophecies (iii) manifestations (iv) endeavors
- (l) What event led to the conversion of the Maldivians to Sunni Islam in the mid-12th century?
(i) Arrival of European explorers (ii) Trade agreements with East Asia
(iii) Arab and East African sailors' influx (iv) Spread of Buddhism from India
- (m) The underwater cabinet meeting held by the Maldives government aimed to _____.
(i) showcase their advanced technology (ii) discuss marine conservation
(iii) address the threat of rising sea levels (iv) promote underwater tourism
- (n) The unique geographical feature that makes the Maldives a sought-after tourist destination is its _____

- (i) deep valleys (ii) snow-covered peaks (iii) glacial lakes (iv) heavenly beaches and lagoons
- (o) Maldives is in -
- (i) the Pacific Ocean (ii) the Arabian Sea (iii) the Indian Ocean (iv) the Bay of Bengal
- (p) Atoll means -
- (i) ring-shaped cluster of coral reefs
- (ii) ring-shaped islands
- (iii) cluster of islands
- (iv) distantly placed islands
- (q) Coral means -
- (i) a sort of hard rocks
- (ii) a sort of hard stones made by dead insects
- (iii) a rocky structure
- (iv) a sort of mineral stones
- (r) The Maldives is the -
- (i) seventh smallest country in the world
- (ii) eighth smallest country in the world
- (iii) only the smallest country in the world
- (iv) 13th smallest country in the world
- (s) History of human habitation in the Maldives -
- (i) dates back to 3000 years
- (ii) dates back to more than 300 years
- (iii) more than 3000 years
- (iv) about 4000 years
- (t) The Maldives were mainly influenced by -
- (i) the Arabians
- (ii) the Australians
- (iii) the Africans

- (iv) the Americans
- (u) The influence of the Arabians -
 - (i) converted many of the people to Islam
 - (ii) converted them to Buddhists
 - (iii) converted them to Hinduism
 - (iv) converted the people to Christianity
- (v) The Portuguese conquered and ruled the Maldives -
 - (i) for about twenty-five years
 - (ii) for fifteen years
 - (iii) for thirty-five years
 - (iv) for ten years
- (w) The Maldives was ruled as an independent Sultanate -
 - (i) from 1153 to 1968
 - (ii) from 1058 to 1887
 - (iii) from 1350 to 1950
 - (iv) from 1887 to 1965
- (x) The Maldives became independent -
 - (i) in 1965
 - (ii) in 1887
 - (iii) in 1153
 - (iv) in 1968
- (y) Tourists are attracted to the Maldives -
 - (i) for its favorable weather
 - (ii) for its favorable weather and peace-loving people
 - (iii) for its coral reefs
 - (iv) for its sea beach
- (z) Which of the following has the closest meaning to the word 'clustered'?

- (i) Scattered
- (ii) Dejected
- (iii) Surrounded
- (iv) Bounded

(aa) What is the purpose of the author of this passage?

- (i) To get the readers introduced to East Africa
- (ii) To sketch the characteristics of pearls in the Indian Ocean
- (iii) To state the biography of a famous Arab historian and scholar
- (iv) To make the readers known to the Republic of Maldives

(ab) The earliest settlers of the Maldives were possibly -

- (i) Sri Lankans
- (ii) Europeans
- (iii) South Indians and Sri Lankans
- (iv) The Portuguese

02. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Why is the Maldives a remarkable tourist spot? [DB'19]
- (b) Why is 2008 a significant year for the Maldives? [DB'19]
- (c) What may happen to the Maldives owing to global warming? [DB'19]
- (d) What happened to Maldives during the tsunami of 2004? [DB'19]
- (e) Do you support the idea of having a cabinet meeting underwater? What could be the reason for holding such a strange meeting? [DB'19]
- (f) How has the Maldives government attempted to combat the challenges posed by rising sea levels?
- (g) When did the Maldives become an independent Islamic sultanate, and how did its governance change over time?
- (h) Why did the government of the Maldives hold an underwater cabinet meeting in 2009?
- (i) When did the conversion of the Maldivians to Sunni Islam take place and what event it was facilitated?

- (j) Where did the underwater cabinet meeting take place and why was it significant?
- (k) How many islands constitute the Maldives?
- (l) Are the people of Maldives Buddhists? What happened in the mid-12th century?
- (m) How old is the human habitation in the Maldives?
- (n) When did the Maldives set its present name?
- (o) What is the Maldives famous for?
- (p) What is carbon emission?
- (q) Why is the Maldives unfortunate?
- (r) What are the predictions about the Maldives?
- (s) Why does the Maldives government think of purchasing lands?

3. (i) The Republic of Maldives having 1199 islands is (a) — as an island country in the Indian Ocean. These islands are clustered into 26 major atolls. An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef or a string of the (b) — coral islands. The Maldives (c) — an area of 300sq km only is the eighth smallest country in the world. People of different nationality came to this country nearly 3000 years ago the (d) — from southern India and Sri Lanka came her in the 4th and 5th centuries BC who were probably the (e) — settlers of the Maldives.

(ii) For almost three millennia, individuals have been residing on the (a) ___ of the Maldives. They embarked on journeys from diverse global regions – the Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, Europe, and the America - to reach these lands. The (b) ___ inhabitants of the Maldives likely originated from the southern parts of India and Sri Lanka, arriving during the 4th and 5th centuries BC. In the 12th century AD, sailors from East Africa and (c) ___ nations voyaged to the Maldives. Consequently, the (d) ___ Maldivians, initially practicing Buddhism, adopted Sunni Islam by the mid-12th century. In 1344, Ibn Batuta, an (e) ___ Arab historian and scholar, explored the Maldives.

(iii) The Maldives is an island country in the Indian Ocean (a) — thousands of small islands (b) — into 26 major atolls. According to the (c) — of people and size, it is the smallest Asian country. (d) — the Maldives in the 16th century, the Portuguese dominated the country for many years. The Maldivians gained their (e) — from Britain in 1965.

(iv) The Maldives is well-known for its being the (a) — country in the world. (b) — to global warming, this small country is under threat from rising sea levels. So the government of the Maldives has begun to (c) — land from nearby countries. In order to (d) — the threat to global warming to the country a cabinet meeting was (e) — underwater by the government in 2009.

বঙ্গানুবাদ

মালদ্বীপ প্রজাতন্ত্র ভারত মহাসাগরে অবস্থিত একটি দ্বীপ রাষ্ট্র। এটি ১১৯৯টি দ্বীপ নিয়ে গঠিত, যা ২৬টি প্রধান প্রবাল দ্বীপপুঞ্জ (অ্যাটল) বিভক্ত। একটি অ্যাটল হল একটি বৃত্তাকার প্রবাল প্রাচীর বা কাছাকাছি অবস্থিত প্রবাল দ্বীপগুলোর একটি সারি। মালদ্বীপের প্রাকৃতিক প্রবাল প্রাচীরগুলো সমুদ্র দ্বারা পরিবেষ্টিত এবং ভারত মহাসাগরের মুক্তোর মতো সৌন্দর্য নিয়ে দাঁড়িয়ে আছে।

মালদ্বীপ বিশ্বের অষ্টম ক্ষুদ্রতম দেশ, যার আয়তন মাত্র ৩০০ বর্গকিলোমিটার। এটি জনসংখ্যা এবং আয়তনের দিক থেকে এশিয়ার ক্ষুদ্রতম দেশ। প্রায় ৩০০০ বছর ধরে মালদ্বীপের দ্বীপগুলিতে মানুষের বসবাস রয়েছে। বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অংশ—এশিয়া, আরব, ইউরোপ এবং আমেরিকা থেকে মানুষ এই দ্বীপগুলিতে আসত। মালদ্বীপের প্রাচীনতম অধিবাসীরা সম্ভবত দক্ষিণ ভারত এবং শ্রীলঙ্কা থেকে এসেছিলেন, যারা খ্রিস্টপূর্ব চতুর্থ ও পঞ্চম শতকে এখানে বসতি স্থাপন করেন।

১২শ শতাব্দীতে পূর্ব আফ্রিকা ও আরব দেশ থেকে নাবিকরা মালদ্বীপে আসতে শুরু করে। এর ফলে, মূলত বৌদ্ধ ধর্মাবলম্বী মালদ্বীপবাসীরা ১২শ শতকের মাঝামাঝি সময়ে সুন্নি ইসলাম ধর্মে ধর্মান্তরিত হয়। ১৩৪৪ সালে, বিখ্যাত আরব ঐতিহাসিক ও পণ্ডিত ইবনে বতুতা মালদ্বীপ ভ্রমণ করেন।

১৬শ শতাব্দীতে পর্তুগিজরা মালদ্বীপ দখল করে এবং ১৫ বছর ধরে দেশটি শাসন করে। যদিও ১১৫৩ সাল থেকে ১৯৬৮ সাল পর্যন্ত এটি বেশিরভাগ সময় একটি স্বাধীন ইসলামিক সুলতানাত হিসেবে শাসিত হয়েছে, তবে ১৮৮৭ সাল থেকে ১৯৬৫ সাল পর্যন্ত এটি একটি ব্রিটিশ উপনিবেশ ছিল। ১৯৬৫ সালে ব্রিটেন থেকে স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর, সুলতানাত ব্যবস্থা আরও তিন বছর ধরে চলতে থাকে। অবশেষে, ১১ নভেম্বর ১৯৬৮ সালে সুলতানাত বাতিল করা হয় এবং দেশটি একটি প্রজাতন্ত্রে পরিণত হয়, যা আজকের মালদ্বীপ নামে পরিচিত।

মালদ্বীপ তার মনোরম আবহাওয়া, স্বর্গীয় সমুদ্র সৈকত, লেগুন, বিলাসবহুল অবকাশ্যাপন কেন্দ্র এবং শান্তিপ্রিয় মানুষের জন্য বিখ্যাত। ২০০৮ সালে মালদ্বীপকে বিশ্বের সর্বোত্তম সমুদ্র সৈকত ও বিনোদনের সুবিধাযুক্ত দেশ হিসেবে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়া হয়।

মালদ্বীপ বিশ্বের সবচেয়ে নিচু দেশ হিসেবে পরিচিত। দুর্ভাগ্যবশত, এই ছোট দেশটি বৈশ্বিক উষ্ণায়নের কারণে সমুদ্রপৃষ্ঠের উচ্চতা বৃদ্ধির হুমকির মুখে রয়েছে। দেশটির বেশিরভাগ অংশই মাত্র ১.৫ মিটার উচ্চতায় অবস্থিত, এবং সর্বোচ্চ বিন্দুটি মাত্র ২.৩ মিটার! অনেক বিশেষজ্ঞ ভবিষ্যদ্বাণী করেছেন যে, ভারত মহাসাগরের পানির উচ্চতা বৃদ্ধির ফলে মালদ্বীপ একদিন পানির নিচে তলিয়ে যেতে পারে।

২০০৪ সালের প্রলয়ঙ্করী সুনামি মালদ্বীপে আঘাত হানলে, দ্বীপগুলোর বহু গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অঞ্চল সমুদ্রের পানিতে প্লাবিত হয়। সম্ভাব্য বিপর্যয় মোকাবিলায় মালদ্বীপ সরকার কাছাকাছি দেশগুলো থেকে

জমি কেনার পরিকল্পনা করেছে, যাতে দেশটি ডুবে গেলে জনগণকে সেখানে পুনর্বাসিত করা যায়।

বৈশ্বিক উষ্ণায়নের ফলে দ্বীপপুঞ্জের ওপর যে বিপদ আসতে পারে, তা বিশ্ববাসীর কাছে তুলে ধরার জন্য মালদ্বীপ সরকার ২০০৯ সালে পানির নিচে একটি মন্ত্রিসভা বৈঠক আয়োজন করে। এটি ছিল বিশ্বের প্রথম পানির নিচে অনুষ্ঠিত মন্ত্রিসভার বৈঠক। এই বৈঠকটি একটি ছোট দ্বীপের নীল-সবুজ লেগুনের ৫ মিটার নিচে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। বৈঠকে, মন্ত্রিসভার সদস্যরা একটি নথিতে স্বাক্ষর করেন, যা বিশ্বব্যাপী কার্বন নির্গমন হ্রাস করার আহ্বান জানায়।

Word	Meaning (বাংলায়)	Synonym	Antonym
Island	দ্বীপ	Islet, Isle	Mainland
Country	দেশ	Nation, State	Colony
Clustered	গুচ্ছভুক্ত, একত্রিত	Grouped, Gathered	Scattered
Major	প্রধান, গুরুত্বপূর্ণ	Significant, Important	Minor, Insignificant
Reef	প্রবাল প্রাচীর	Coral, Ridge	Plain, Deep Water
Surrounded	পরিবেষ্টিত	Encircled, Enclosed	Open, Exposed
Famous	বিখ্যাত	Well-known, Renowned	Unknown, Obscure
Tourist	পর্যটক	Traveler, Visitor	Resident, Local
Pleasant	মনোরম, সুখকর	Delightful, Enjoyable	Unpleasant, Disagreeable
Heavenly	স্বর্গীয়, অপার্থিব	Divine, Celestial	Earthly, Infernal
Threat	ভুমকি, বিপদ	Danger, Risk	Safety, Protection
Rising	বৃদ্ধি পাওয়া	Increasing, Growing	Falling, Declining
Lowest	সবচেয়ে নিচু	Smallest, Bottommost	Highest, Tallest
Unfortunately	দুর্ভাগ্যক্রমে	Regrettably, Sadly	Fortunately, Luckily
Independence	স্বাধীনতা	Freedom, Liberty	Dependence, Subjugation
Resettling	পুনর্বাসন	Relocating, Repositioning	Displacing, Uprooting

Word	Meaning (বাংলায়)	Synonym	Antonym
Meeting	সভা	Assembly, Gathering	Dispersal, Dismissal
Signed	স্বাক্ষরিত	Authorized, Endorsed	Rejected, Denied
Cut	কমানো, হ্রাস করা	Reduce, Decrease	Increase, Expand
Emission	নির্গমন, নিঃসরণ	Release, Discharge	Absorption, Retention

Answer:

1. (a) (ii) attraction
 (b) (iv) enjoyable
 (c) (iii) lowest land
 (d) (i) submerged
 (e) (i) ideal
 (f) (i) threat
 (g) (iii) disappearing from the map
 (h) (iv) None of these
 (i) (iii) serene
 (j) (ii) procure
 (k) (ii) prophecies
 (l) (iii) Arab and East African sailors' influx
 (m) (iii) address the threat of rising sea levels
 (n) (iv) heavenly beaches and lagoons
 (o) (iii) the Indian Ocean
 (p) (i) ring-shaped cluster of coral reefs
 (q) (ii) a sort of hard stones made by dead insects
 (r) (ii) eighth smallest country in the world
 (s) (i) dates back to 3000 years
 (t) (i) the Arabians
 (u) (i) converted many of the people to Islam
 (v) (ii) for fifteen years
 (w) (i) from 1153 to 1968
 (x) (i) in 1965
 (y) (ii) for its favorable weather and peace-loving people
 (z) (iii) Surrounded
 (aa) (iv) To make the readers known to the Republic of Maldives
 (ab) (iii) South Indians and Sri Lankans

2.

- (a) The Maldives is a remarkable tourist spot because of its pleasant weather, heavenly beaches, crystal-clear lagoons, luxurious holiday resorts, and peace-loving people.
- (b) The year 2008 is significant for the Maldives because it was ranked as the best country in the world for its beautiful beaches and recreational facilities.
- (c) Due to global warming and rising sea levels, the Maldives may eventually disappear under water, as most of the country lies just 1.5 meters above sea level.
- (d) During the tsunami of 2004, many dry parts of the Maldives were submerged by seawater, causing flooding and destruction.
- (e) Yes, I support the idea of holding a cabinet meeting underwater. The reason for such a unique meeting was to raise global awareness about the serious threat of rising sea levels caused by global warming.
- (f) To combat the challenges posed by rising sea levels, the Maldives government has started purchasing land from nearby countries to resettle its people if the islands go underwater.
- (g) The Maldives became an independent Islamic sultanate in 1153. It remained a sultanate until 1968, although it was a British colony from 1887 to 1965. After independence, the sultanate continued for three more years before being replaced by a republic in 1968.
- (h) The Maldives government held an underwater cabinet meeting in 2009 to draw international attention to the threats of global warming and rising sea levels to its low-lying islands.
- (i) The conversion of the Maldivians to Sunni Islam took place in the mid-12th century, facilitated by the arrival and influence of sailors from East Africa and Arab countries.
- (j) The underwater cabinet meeting took place about 5 meters underwater in a blue-green lagoon on a small island. It was significant as the first underwater cabinet meeting in the world, aiming to highlight the dangers of climate change.
- (k) The Maldives consists of 1,199 islands.
- (l) Originally, the people of the Maldives were Buddhists. In the mid-12th century, due to the influence of Arab sailors, they converted to Sunni Islam.
- (m) Human habitation in the Maldives dates back nearly 3,000 years.
- (n) The Maldives assumed its present name and became a republic on November 11, 1968, after abolishing the sultanate.
- (o) The Maldives is famous for its idyllic natural beauty, coral reefs, pleasant weather, and being the lowest country in the world.
- (p) Carbon emission refers to the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, mainly due to burning fossil fuels, which contributes to global warming.
- (q) The Maldives is unfortunate because it is under serious threat from rising sea levels caused by global warming, which may lead to its submersion.
- (r) Predictions suggest that the Maldives may be swept away or submerged due to the rising water levels in the Indian Ocean.
- (s) The Maldives government is considering purchasing land from other countries to ensure a safe place to resettle its citizens if the islands go underwater.

(i)

- (a) known
- (b) closely-spaced
- (c) with

- (d) people
 - (e) earliest
-

(ii)

- (a) islands
 - (b) earliest
 - (c) Arab
 - (d) original
 - (e) famous
-

(iii)

- (a) consisting of
 - (b) grouped
 - (c) number
 - (d) Invading
 - (e) independence
-

(iv)

- (a) lowest
- (b) Due
- (c) purchase
- (d) highlight
- (e) held