

## Slow lane driving: On the World Bank's dire growth forecast for India

The World Bank has warned India's **uneven** recovery could soon **falter**

At the **onset** of 2022-23, the Indian economy was expected to grow anywhere between 7.2%, as per Reserve Bank of India **projections**, and 8.2%, as per the International Monetary Fund forecast, with major rating agencies and financial institutions **pegging** their projections in the middle. Having **bounced back** 8.7% last year from a **COVID-triggered nadir**, the **moderation** in economic growth **was** not a **big deal** even as **the ripple effects** of the war in Europe **had** begun and inflation had been high since January. By early September, the range of most forecasts shifted to 6.7%-7.7%. The RBI, Asian Development Bank, and Fitch Ratings have lowered their **estimate** to 7%. S&P Global Ratings **retained** its forecast at 7.3% and Moody's Investors Service **pared** it to 7.6%, but both believe the emerging global **slowdown** will not **derail** the post-COVID recovery. The **outlook** is not so **benign** any more, the World Bank has suggested, based on **inputs** as recent as the last week of September. From its initial expectation of 8% growth this year, which it cut to 7.5% in June, the Bank has **laid out** a **gloomier** outlook with growth of just 6.5%, **citing** the **worsening** external environment.

After the 13.5% expansion in the April-June quarter, high-frequency economic **indicators point to** a healthy **uptick** through August. But growth appears to have **stumbled** a bit in September with goods exports **contracting** for the first time since February 2021 and imports growth also slowing sharply, **signalling** lower domestic demand. The Bank's latest forecast suggests a relative slowdown starting in the October-December quarter, with tighter global **liquidity**, higher inflation (oil prices are surging again after the OPEC meet) and rising interest rates **denting** domestic demand. At the same time, the **demand** for exports **will shrink** further and private investment will likely prefer to **sit out** this period of **heightened uncertainty**. Private consumption, **in particular**, will be affected this year and next, the Bank has **reckoned**, especially as the pandemic's **scars** on income and employment levels **persist** for rural and low-income households. As many as 56 million Indians may have **slipped** below the poverty line in 2020, it estimated. The government has been **gung-ho** about "entering an **era of robust growth**", but **its decision** to extend the **pandemic-driven** free foodgrains programme **suggests** it realises that not all **actors** of the economy **have managed** to get **out of the woods** yet. This **realism** should be **reflected** in other policy choices it makes too, **tempering optimism** with caution. **[Practice]**

- **Dent** (verb) – Reduce, diminish, lessen, undermine, hurt, damage, depress
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Dire** (adjective) – dreadful, awful, terrible, appalling, frightful भयानक
2. **Forecast** (noun) – Prediction, estimate, guess, calculation, projection, prognostication पूर्वानुमान
3. **Uneven** (adjective) – irregular, unequal, rough, jagged, lopsided असमान
4. **Falter** (verb) – stumble, waver, stammer, vacillate लड़खड़ाना
5. **Onset** (noun) – start, commencement, beginning शुरुआत
6. **Projection** (noun) – Forecast, prognosis, estimate, prediction अनुमान
7. **Peg** (verb) – To fix or keep something at a certain level एक विशेष स्तर पर स्थिर बनाए रखना
8. **Bounce back** (phrasal verb) – to return quickly to a normal condition after a difficult situation or event
9. **COVID-triggered** (adjective) – Caused or induced by COVID कोविड-19 के कारण
10. **Nadir** (noun) – An extreme state of adversity; the lowest point of anything पतन, अधोगति
11. **Moderation** (noun) – Reduction, Lessening, Decline, fall कटौती
12. **A big deal** (phrase) – something that is very important. बड़ी बात होना
13. **Ripple effects** (noun) – the effect or influence of a situation, action, event, etc. that does not stop but is experienced on a series of things one after the other (घटना, कार्य आदि का) शृंखलाबद्ध प्रभाव या परिणाम
14. **Estimate** (noun) – Approximation, estimation, guess, evaluation, assessment अनुमान
15. **Retain** (verb) – keep, maintain, preserve बनाए रखना
16. **Pare** (verb) – Reduce, trim, curtail, cut back, scale down कम करना
17. **Slowdown** (noun) – a decline in economic activity. मंदी
18. **Derail** (verb) – Disrupt, upset, wreck, ruin, spoil, overturn बाधित करना
19. **Outlook** (noun) – perspective, prospect, attitude, view, viewpoint दृष्टिकोण
20. **Benign** (adjective) – mild and favourable. कृपालु
21. **Input** (noun) – Information
22. **Lay out** (phrasal verb) – to explain something clearly,
23. **Gloomy** (adjective) – dismal, melancholy, dark, glum, depressed उदास

24. **Cite** (verb) – quote, name, mention, refer to, allude to हवाला देना
25. **Worsening** (adjective) – deteriorating, falling, fading, waning, failing, getting worse बिगड़ती
26. **Indicator** (noun) – indication, pointer, gauge, index, sign सूचक
27. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, denote, suggest, point out, इंगित करना
28. **Uptick** (noun) – Small increase इजाफा
29. **Stumble** (verb) – Falter, waver, stammer, vacillate लडखडाना
30. **Contract** (verb) – Diminish, shrink, tighten, reduce कम होना
31. **Signal** (verb) – sign, indicate, portend, usher in, signify संकेत करना
32. **Liquidity** (noun) – Cash, Liquid asset
33. **Shrink** (verb) – Fall, decrease, decline, diminish, lessen, dwindle, minimize कम करना
34. **Sit out** (phrasal verb) – to not be involved in something दूर दूर रहना
35. **Heightened** (adjective) – increased, raised, elevated, amplified, magnified बढ़ा हुआ
36. **Uncertainty** (noun) – something that is not known or certain अनिश्चितता
37. **In particular** (phrase) – particularly, especially, specifically, notably, mainly विशेष रूप से
38. **Reckon** (verb) – Expect, believe, or suppose मानना
39. **Scar** (noun) – Effect, trauma, aftereffect, damage आघात, घाव
40. **Persist** (verb) – continue, remain, persevere, endure, last दृढ़ रहना
41. **Slip** (verb) – to go into a worse state
42. **Gung-ho** (adjective) – extremely enthusiastic about doing something, especially going to war उत्साही
43. **Era** (noun) – period, age, time, generation युग
44. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, hardy मजबूत
45. **Pandemic-driven** (adjective) – caused or induced by Pandemic. महामारी से प्रेरित
46. **Actor** (noun) – Participant
47. **Manage** (to) (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, or producing, especially with difficulty सफल होना
48. **Be out of the woods** (phrase) – to no longer be in danger or difficulty
49. **Realism** (noun) – Practicality, level-headedness, pragmatism यथार्थवाद

50. **Reflect** (verb) – Reveal, expose, suggest, signal, indicate, show, display, manifest  
प्रदर्शित करना

51. **Temper** (verb) – Reduce, moderate, alleviate, soften, lighten कम करना

52. **Optimism** (noun) – Hopefulness, cheerfulness, buoyancy, positivity आशावाद

## Practice Exercise

**Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words**

**[Editorial page]**

1. This realism should be reflected in other policy choices it makes too, tempering optimism with caution.
  - A. Coherent
  - B. Quixotic
  - C. Buoyancy
  - D. Insinuate
2. From its initial expectation of 8% growth this year, which it cut to 7.5% in June, the Bank has laid out a gloomier outlook with growth of just 6.5%, citing the worsening external environment.
  - A. Ramification
  - B. Gregarious
  - C. Dismal
  - D. Burgeon
3. The outlook is not so benign any more, the World Bank has suggested, based on inputs as recent as the last week of September.
  - A. Dearth
  - B. Mild
  - C. Concise
  - D. Relegate

**Direction (Q4 – Q5): select the appropriate antonym of the given words**

**[Answer]**

4. The RBI, Asian Development Bank, and Fitch Ratings have lowered their estimate to 7%. S&P Global Ratings retained its forecast at 7.3% and Moody's Investors Service pared it to 7.6%, but both believe the emerging global slowdown will not derail the post-COVID recovery.
  - A. Abhor
  - B. Ambivalent
  - C. Amorous
  - D. Expand
5. The Bank's latest forecast suggests a relative slowdown starting in the October-December quarter, with tighter global liquidity, higher inflation (oil prices are surging again after the OPEC meet) and rising interest rates denting domestic demand.
  - A. Cognizant
  - B. Perjury
  - C. Bolster
  - D. Philistine

**Direction (Q6 – Q10): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

6.
  - A. When he found out that the girl had escaped he was absolute irritated and furious.
  - B. Neither the mouse nor the lion was caught.
  - C. After you return from New Delhi, I will meet after you.

- D. When I was young I used to collect stamps as a hobby.  
E. All are correct
7. A. Nuclear waste will still be radioactive even after twenty thousand years, so it must be disposed of very carefully.  
B. The weather is much more warmer than it was a few days ago.  
C. My friend lived at the top of an old house which has been converted into a flat.  
D. Both A & B are incorrect  
E. All are correct
8. While I am (A)/ doing the house works (B)/ I like to listen to (C)/ music on the radio. (D)/no error (E)
9. I was very lucky (A)/ that day (B)/ and caught (C)/ a log of fish. (D)/ no error(E)

10. **Find out the misspelt word**

[Answer]

- A. Tyranny  
B. Underrate  
C. Unraveling  
D. Useable

11. **Direction:** Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.

**The BJP has stolen a march over the Opposition by naming Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for President.**

**P.** she is poised to win and become the first from a tribal community to occupy the highest office of the Republic.

**Q.** The significance of her elevation is particularly pronounced in the 75th year of India's independence.

**R.** notwithstanding the disturbing signs of the mobilisation of subaltern communities for majoritarian politics.

**S.** A tribal woman succeeding a Dalit in the highest office of the country is a remarkable testimony to the deepening of Indian democracy,

**T.** Ms. Murmu will be the second woman to hold the highest office, after Pratibha Patil, and at 64, she will be the youngest President in the country's history.

**U.** With the support of BJP allies and regional parties such as Odisha's BJD and Andhra Pradesh's YSRCP,

Which among the following will be the **Fourth** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P                      B.T                      C.S                      D.Q                      E.R

**Direction (Q12 – Q15): Cloze test based on Editorial**

With numbers tilted in the BJP's favour, the Opposition could have only used the contest for the highest office as an opportunity for political messaging. The joint candidate of the Opposition parties, Yashwant Sinha — a former BJP leader and Union Minister in the Janata Dal and BJP governments —

hardly serves that purpose. For all his track record, Mr. Sinha hardly represents anything political. That he turned into a strong critic of Mr. Modi after being ignored for positions, if anything, weakens any claim of his candidacy being an ideological counter to the BJP. The lack of imagination, initiative and capacity for any radical politics in the Opposition comes across \_\_\_\_\_**12**\_\_\_\_\_ in the selection of the candidate. While Mr. Modi uses every election as an opportunity to respond to group aspirations of various communities, the Opposition remains \_\_\_\_\_**13**\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**14**\_\_\_\_\_ in cocoons. That Mr. Sinha comes from a tribal State, Jharkhand, makes the optics of this contest even more damaging for the Opposition. The Opposition is right to point out that the BJP did not make any serious effort to field a \_\_\_\_\_**15**\_\_\_\_\_ candidate.

12. A. Sycophant            B. Starkly            C. inappropriately    D. Unclearly
13. A. Adrift            B. Introspective    C. Assimilating    D. Preeminent
14. A. Erudite            B. Indifferent    C. Enconced    D. Complicity
15. A. Infinitesimal    B. Consensus    C. Existential    D. Willful

## Answers

1. C    2.C    3.B    4. D    5. C    6. A    7. B    8. B    9. C    10. C    11.C    12.B  
 13. A    14.C    15.B

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

6. 'absolute' के बदले 'absolutely' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'absolute' एक adjective है जबकि 'absolutely' एक adverb, और adjectives 'irritated' तथा 'furious' की विशेषता एक adverb बताएगा, न कि एक adjective.

➤ 'absolutely' will be used instead of 'absolute' because 'absolute' is an adjective while 'absolutely' is an adverb, and the adjectives 'irritated' and 'furious' will be characterized as an adverb and not an adjective.

7. comparative 'warmer' के पहले 'more' का प्रयोग नहीं होगा क्योंकि किसी comparative के पहले 'more' या किसी superlative के पहले 'most' जोड़कर उसका double comparative या double superlative नहीं बनाया जाता है।

➤ 'more' will not be used before comparative 'warmer' because 'more' before a comparative or 'most' before any superlative is not made to make it double comparative or double superlative

8. (B) 'works' के बदले 'work' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि कामए कार्य के अर्थ में 'work' एक uncountable noun होता है और 'गृह कार्य' के लिए 'home work' का प्रयोग होता है।

(B) 'work' will be used instead of 'works' because 'work' is an uncountable noun

9. (C) 'catched' के बदले 'caught' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'catch'(पकड़ना) का  $v^2$  तथा  $v^3$  रूप 'caught' होता है।

(C) 'caught' will be used instead of 'catched' because 'caught' has  $v^2$  and  $v^3$  forms of 'caught'

10. **Unravelling** (noun) – undo (twisted, knitted, or woven threads). सुलझाना

### 11. UPQSRT

The BJP has stolen a march over the Opposition by naming Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for President. With the support of BJP allies and regional parties such as Odisha's BJD and Andhra Pradesh's YSRCP, she is poised to win and become the first from a tribal community to occupy the highest office of the Republic. The significance of her elevation is particularly pronounced in the 75th year of India's independence. A tribal woman succeeding a Dalit in the highest office of the country is a remarkable testimony to the deepening of Indian democracy, notwithstanding the disturbing signs of the mobilisation of subaltern communities for



majoritarian politics. Ms. Murmu will be the second woman to hold the highest office, after Pratibha Patil, and at 64, she will be the youngest President in the country's history.

12. **Starkly** (adverb) – in a sharply clear way. स्पष्ट रूप से
13. **Adrift** (adjective) – lost, off course, disoriented, confused, bewildered; wrong, mistaken, inaccurate भटकते हुए; बेठिकाने
14. **Ensnoced** (adjective) – settled, seat, entrenched, sheltered, screened विराजमान; पनाह लेना
15. **Consensus** (noun as modifier) – common consent, accord, unison, unity, unanimity, oneness आम सहमति

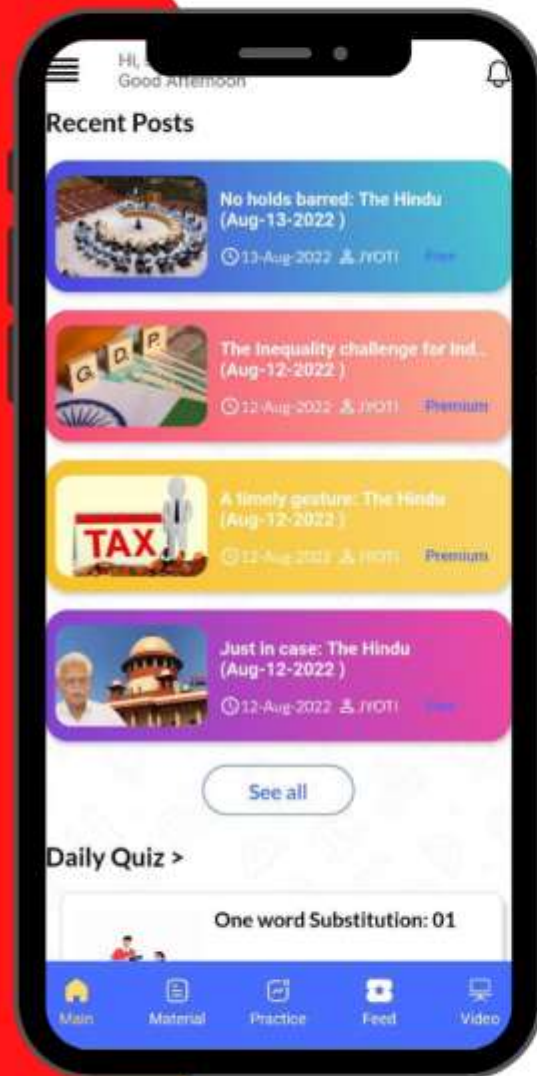
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## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Coherent</b>	adjective	Holding together; making sense	सुसंगत, संसक्त, स्पष्ट
	<b>Quixotic</b>	adjective	Romantic or idealistic to a foolish or impractical degree	विलक्षण
	<b>Insinuate</b>	verb	To hint; to creep in	इशारा करना
Q2	<b>Ramification</b>	noun	A consequences; a branching out	शाखा विस्तार
	<b>Gregarious</b>	adjective	Sociable; enjoying the company of others	झुण्ड में रहनेवाला, सुसामाजिक
	<b>Burgeon</b>	verb	To expand; to flourish	विकास पाना, सफल होना
Q3	<b>Dearth</b>	noun	Lack; scarcity	कमी, अकाल
	<b>Concise</b>	adjective	Brief and to the point; succinct	संक्षिप्त
	<b>Relegate</b>	verb	To banish; to send away	बाहर निकाल देना
Q4	<b>Abhor</b>	verb	To hate very, very much; to detest	घृणा करना
	<b>Ambivalent</b>	adjective	Undecided; neutral; wishy-washy	दुविधा में पड़ा हुआ, अनिर्णीत
	<b>Amorous</b>	adjective	Feeling loving; especially in sexual sense in love; relating to love	कामुक, प्रणयशील
Q5	<b>Cognizant</b>	adjective	Aware; conscious	जानकार, परिचित
	<b>Perjury</b>	noun	Lying under oath	झूठा साक्ष्य

	<b>Philistine</b>	noun	A smugly ignorant person with no appreciation of intellectual or artistic matter.	अशिक्षित
Q12	<b>Sycophant</b>	noun	One who sucks up to other	चापलूस
Q13	<b>Introspective</b>	adjective	Tending to think about oneself; examining one's feeling	आत्मविश्लेषी
	<b>Assimilate</b>	verb	To take in; to absorb to learn thoroughly	अपनाना
	<b>Preeminent</b>	adjective	Better than anyone else; outstanding; supreme	उत्तम
Q14	<b>Erudite</b>	adjective	Scholarly; deeply learned	वैज्ञानिक, विद्वत्तापूर्ण, ज्ञानी
	<b>Indifferent</b>	adjective	Not caring one way or the other; apathetic; mediocre	उदासीन
	<b>Complicity</b>	noun	Participation in wrongdoing; the act of being an accomplice	सहापराध, सहभागिता
Q15	<b>Infinitesimal</b>	adjective	Very, very, very small; infinitely small.	बहुत छोटा
	<b>Existential</b>	adjective	Having to do with existence	अस्तित्व संबंधी,
	<b>Willful</b>	adjective	Deliberate; obstinate; insistent on having one's way	जान-बूझकर

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