

## Dispiriting politics: On the BJP's Gujarat campaign

The BJP is trying to **divert** attention from its **governance record** in Gujarat

In the first **phase** of the Gujarat Assembly elections on Thursday, a **turnout** of over 60% was recorded in 89 seats spread across the 19 districts of Saurashtra, Kutch and South Gujarat. A total of 788 candidates are in the **fray** in the first phase. In the second phase, the remaining 93 seats will vote on December 5. The **entry** of the Aam Admi Party (AAP) **has** opened new **possibilities** in the State where the BJP and the Congress have traditionally been the two **poles**. The AAP **appears** to have **emerged** as a strong force in certain parts of Surat city and the Saurashtra region, turning the **contest** triangular in seats such as Varachha Road, Katargam and Olpad. The party's **chief ministerial candidate**, Isudan Gadhvi, **is** contesting from Jam Khambhalia in Saurashtra and the **president** of its State unit, Gopal Italia, **is** contesting from Katargam in Surat. In the 2017 elections, the Congress had done well in the Saurashtra region, winning seats in the districts of Amreli, Morbi, Surendranagar, Gir Somnath, and Junagadh; while the BJP had **retained** its **hold** over Surat city and other South Gujarat districts. The **extent** of the AAP's impact **is** difficult to measure given its **top-down approach** to campaigning and the non-existence of any party structure on the **ground**.

The Morbi bridge **tragedy** that **claimed** at least 141 lives **was** a **prelude** to the poll season but the **massive** governance failure and corruption associated with it did not become an issue in the campaign. The Congress chose to run a **low-key** campaign, avoiding direct attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and trying to keep the focus on day-to-day issues of governance, corruption, **inflation** and unemployment. **Party leader Rahul Gandhi**, who **fronted** its campaign in 2017, **visited** the State only once this time. The BJP campaign is being **spearheaded** by Mr. Modi who increased the frequency of visits to his home State from March this year. After the announcement of the poll, he held a dozen rallies and roadshows in Surat, tribal **pockets** in South Gujarat, and Saurashtra. The BJP **relied** on **emotive** issues such as the **alleged** insults of Mr. Modi by the Congress, the **communal** violence of 2002, and the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, mostly **aimed** at communal **polarisation**, and **sidestepped** any discussion on governance in the State where it has been in power for 27 uninterrupted years. The BJP's **reluctance** to **seek** votes on its governance record **can** be read as **admission** of its failure. But this still might not cost it heavily.

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Dispiriting** (adjective) – causing someone to lose enthusiasm and hope; disheartening. निराशाजनक
2. **Divert** (verb) – Reallocate something to a different purpose. बदलना
3. **Governance** (noun) – The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन
4. **Record** (noun) – Past performance
5. **Phase** (noun) – Stage, period, part, episode चरण
6. **Turnout** (noun) – the number of people attending or taking part in an event, especially the number of people voting in an election. उपस्थित होना
7. **Fray** (noun) – Competition, contest प्रतियोगिता
8. **Possibility** (noun) – Chance, likelihood, probability, hope संभावना
9. **Pole** (noun) – either of two completely opposite or different opinions, positions, or qualities:
10. **Appear** (verb) – seem, look लगना
11. **Emerge** (verb) – appear, arise, come out, surface, develop उभरना
12. **Contest** (noun) – struggle, conflict, confrontation, collision, clash चुनाव लड़ना, प्रतियोगिता
13. **Retain** (verb) – keep, hold, maintain, preserve बनाए/ बरकरार रखना
14. **Hold** (noun) – power or control. पकड़, अधिकार
15. **Extent** (noun) – Degree, amount, range, scope विस्तार, मात्रा
16. **Top-down approach** (phrase) – a strategy in which the decision-making process occurs at the highest level and is then communicated to the rest of the team.
17. **On the ground** (phrase) – in a place where real, practical work is done. जमीन स्तर पर
18. **Claim** (verb) – Take (of relating to lives) लेना
19. **Prelude** (noun) – an action or event serving as an introduction to something more important; Introduction, overture, preface, run-up प्रस्तावना
20. **Massive** (adjective) – exceptionally large. विशाल, व्यापक
21. **Low-key** (adjective) – not elaborate, showy, or intensive; modest or restrained. शांत

22. **Inflation** (noun) – A general and progressive increase in prices मुद्रा स्फीति
23. **Spearhead** (verb) – lead, head, be in the forefront of नेतृत्व करना
24. **Pocket** (noun) – a small, isolated group or area. क्षेत्र, इलाका
25. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend, count on, bank on पर निर्भर होना
26. **Emotive** (adjective) – Inflammatory, controversial, contentious, emotional, sensitive भावनात्मक
27. **Alleged** (adjective) – so-called, supposed कथित
28. **Communal** (adjective) – collective, cooperative, community, सांप्रदायिक
29. **Aim** (at) (verb) – purpose, goal, objective, aspire, target लक्ष्य साधना
30. **Polarisation** (noun) – the act of dividing something, especially something that contains different people or opinions, into two completely opposing groups ध्रुवीकरण
31. **Sidestep** (verb) – avoid, evade, dodge, duck, get out of दरकिनार करना
32. **Reluctance** (noun) – hesitation, unwillingness, disinclination अनिच्छा
33. **Seek** (verb) – Ask for (something) from someone. मांगना
34. **Admission** (noun) – Confession, Declaration, Acknowledgment, acceptance स्वीकृति

## Practice Exercise

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

1. The BJP campaign is being spearheaded by Mr. Modi who increased the frequency of visits to his home State from March this year
  - A. Auspicious
  - B. Lead
  - C. Culinary
  - D. Inaugurate
2. The BJP's reluctance to seek votes on its governance record can be read as admission of its failure.
  - A. Patent
  - B. Unwillingness
  - C. Cursory
  - D. Futile
3. The BJP relied on emotive issues such as the alleged insults of Mr. Modi by the Congress, the communal violence of 2002, and the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, mostly aimed at communal polarisation, and sidestepped any discussion on governance in the State where it has been in power for 27 uninterrupted years.
  - A. Blithe
  - B. Sensitive
  - C. Volition
  - D. Cosmopolitan

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

The senator is going to have to pull out all of the stops if he's to have any chance of winning this election.

- A. To successfully be brought into existence or to completion
  - B. To state the reasons why something should be done or should be the case
  - C. To be experiencing something unpleasant that you have no control over
  - D. Make a very great effort to achieve something
5. **Direction: Two 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.**
- (i) whether to respond to the latest acceleration in retail price gains (D)/ or pause the monetary tightening so as to allow fragile growth to gain more traction.(E) India's latest inflation data present policymakers with a fraught choice: (F)/ to a five-month high with more sizeable interest rate increases(G)/,
  - (ii) food prices leading the charge.(A)/ show retail price gains on a resurgent trajectory with(B)/ Inflation figures based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (C)/
    - A. ABC, EFDG
    - B. DGFE, BAC
    - C. BAC, FDEG

- D. FDGE, CBA
- E. None of the above

**Direction (Q6 – Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

6. Many passer-bys (A)/ stopped at (B)/ the place of the accident (C)/ No Error(D)
7. The batsman completed (A)/ his century (B)/ on minimum number of balls (C)/ No Error(D)
8. The accident was fatal (A)/ as the truck had a head-on collision (B)/ against a van. (C)/ No Error. (D)
9. A real brave man is not he (A)/ who does not feel (B)/ afraid but one who conquers that fear. (C)/ No Error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
  - A. Antecedent
  - B. Qualitive
  - C. Euphemism
  - D. Renounce

**Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

**(The Hindu Editorial: Seeds of hope – Nov 03, 2022)**

DMH-11 employs genes from soil bacterium that makes mustard, a self-pollinating plant, amenable to being crossed with other varieties and producing hybrid varieties. **(1)**/ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex regulator and an arm of the Environment Ministry, last week cleared the variety for environmental release.**(2)**/ After years of being in limbo, there is a surge of optimism around DMH-11, or Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11, a variety developed using genetic engineering techniques by Indian scientists and public funds. **(3)**/ The seed can be grown in fields for producing more of its kind and is a precursor to it being approved for commercial release. **(4)**/ Hybrid varieties are generally more \_\_\_\_\_**(a)**\_\_\_\_\_ and, in the case of mustard, an oil seed, will produce more oil. Despite having varieties of mustard, India continues to be a net oil importer due to poor yields. The food crisis due to the Ukraine war has only exacerbated the problem. Despite decades-long trials, mustard hybrids have not made it to Indian farmers because of activists opposed to genetic modification technology in principle and some farmer groups that believe them to be dangerous.

While several top scientists and agricultural experts have cheered the GEAC approval, the celebration ought \_\_\_\_\_**(b)**\_\_\_\_\_ be muted. In 2017 too, GEAC had cleared the plant and then did a backtrack by introducing additional tests after protests. In 2009, GEAC had cleared Bt Brinjal, a transgenic food crop, only to be over-ruled by the UPA government — again after protests. Agriculture, being a State subject, may merit political scrutiny before a seed can be commercially released; \_\_\_\_\_**(c)**\_\_\_\_\_, in the case of transgenic technology, these decisions have only served to throttle technological progress. The hold, or the so-called '**moratorium**', on Bt Brinjal persists and it was only in 2020 that GEAC approved fresh field trials, which were in effect repetitions of earlier tests. It is unclear if it will be available in the immediate future. The barnase-barstar system, used in DMH-11, is promising but already outdated given that cutting-edge technology such as CRISPR is in vogue. DMH-11 alone may not be the \_\_\_\_\_**(d)**\_\_\_\_\_ for India's edible oil crisis and rather represents a platform technology

that requires seed companies to invest and develop their own hybrids. However, the **uncertainty(A)** around regulatory policy regarding seed development **hinders(B)** this. To signal transformation, the Government must second the approval by GEAC and restore the system, whereby scientific **consent(C)** — rather than political considerations — **determines(D)** the availability of products to farmers and consumers.

**Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words**

11. Hybrid varieties are generally more \_\_\_\_\_(a)\_\_\_\_\_ and, in the case of mustard, an oil seed, will produce more oil.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (a)**

- (i) Apparent
- (ii) Thorough
- (iii) Vigorous
- (iv) Sustainable

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (ii) and (iv)    E. None of the above

12. While several top scientists and agricultural experts have cheered the GEAC approval, the celebration ought \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ be muted.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (b)**

- (i) For
- (ii) To
- (iii) By
- (iv) In
- (v) While
- (vi) Over

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (vi)    D. Both (vi) and (iv)    E. None of the above

13. Agriculture, being a State subject, may merit political scrutiny before a seed can be commercially released; \_\_\_\_\_(c)\_\_\_\_\_, in the case of transgenic technology, these decisions have only served to throttle technological progress.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (c)**

- (i) While
- (ii) Since
- (iii) Through
- (iv) However

A. Only (iv)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (i) and (ii)    E. None of the above

14. DMH-11 alone may not be the \_\_\_\_\_ for India's edible oil crisis and rather represents a platform technology that requires seed companies to invest and develop their own hybrids.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (d)**

- (i) Panacea
- (ii) Remedy

- (iii) Stampede  
(iv) Limitation
- A. Only (i)    B. Only (iv)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (i) and (ii)    E. None of the above
15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**  
The barnase-barstar system, used in DMH-11 (A)/, is promising but already outdated (B)/ given that cutting-edge technology (C)/ such as CRISPR is in vogue. (D) No Error (E)
- A. (A)  
B. (B)  
C. (C)  
D. (D)  
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**  
DMH-11 employs genes from soil bacterium that makes mustard, a self-pollinating plant, amenable to being crossed with other varieties and producing hybrid varieties. **(1)/** The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex regulator and an arm of the Environment Ministry, last week cleared the variety for environmental release. **(2)/** After years of being in limbo, there is a surge of optimism around DMH-11, or Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11, a variety developed using genetic engineering techniques by Indian scientists and public funds. **(3)/** The seed can be grown in fields for producing more of its kind and is a precursor to it being approved for commercial release. **(4)/**
- A. 2341  
B. 1234  
C. 2134  
D. 2143  
E. 3241
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence
- MORATORIUM**
- (i) A **moratorium** maintains both treatment and insurance opportunities for individuals, but imposes adverse selection costs on the insurance industry.  
(ii) People began to call vainly for a **moratorium** on debt.  
(iii) Provided appropriate **moratorium** had been obtained, oocytes were obtained from patients undergoing therapeutic in vitro fertilisation for the treatment of male factor infertility.
- A. Only (i)  
B. Only (ii)  
C. Only (iii)  
D. (i), (ii)

E. (ii), (iii)

18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

However, the **uncertainty(A)** around regulatory policy regarding seed development **hinders(B)** this. To signal transformation, the Government must second the approval by GEAC and restore the system, whereby scientific **consent(C)** — rather than political considerations — **determines(D)** the availability of products to farmers and consumers.

A. A – D

B. B – A

C. D – B

D. A – C

E. No arrangement

19. In each of the questions given below two statements are given followed by 3 words/phrases. Find the alternative(s) that can act as a starter for the given sentences and combine them into a single sentence keeping the meaning of the sentence same as given in the question.

US policy-makers broadly understand this. It has not translated to action on the ground.

(i) Since

(ii) While

(iii) Moreover

A. (i), (iii)

B. Only i

C. Only ii

D. (ii), (i)

E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

His wife is endowed \_\_\_\_\_ both charms and talents.

A. Of

B. In

C. With

D. To



## Answers

1. B    2.B    3.B    4. D    5. D    6.A    7. C    8.C    9.A    10.B    11. C  
 12. B    13.A    14.D    15.E    16. E    17.D    18. E    19.C    20.C    **[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

4. **Pull out all the stops to** (Phrase) – make a very great effort to achieve something. हर संभव प्रयास करना

5. **FDGF, CBA**

India's latest inflation data present policymakers with a fraught choice: whether to respond to the latest acceleration in retail price gains to a five-month high with more sizeable interest rate increases, or pause the monetary tightening so as to allow fragile growth to gain more traction. Inflation figures based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) show retail price gains on a resurgent trajectory with food prices leading the charge.

6. (A) 'passer-bys' के बदले 'passers-by' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'passer-by' एक Countable Noun है जिसका अर्थ है। 'पथिक, राही' और इसका Plural 'passers-by' होता है। इसी प्रकार 'looker-on' (दर्शक) का Plural 'lookers on' होता है, और 'hanger-on' (चाटुकार, पिछलग्गू ) का Plural 'hangers-on' होता है।

- 'passers-by' will be used instead of 'passer-bys' because 'passer-by' is a Countable Noun which means 'wanderer, passer' and its plural is 'passers-by'. Similarly the plural of 'looker-on' is 'lookers on', and the plural of 'hanger-on' (synonym, hanger) is 'hangers-on'.

7. (C) 'on minimum number' के बदले 'in minimum numbers' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'minimum/maximum' के बाद Countable Noun Plural होता है और 'number' के पहले Preposition 'in' का प्रयोग होता है।

- 'in minimum numbers' will be used instead of 'on minimum number' because 'minimum/maximum' is followed by Countable Noun Plural and before 'number' the preposition 'in' is used.

8. (C) 'against' के बदले 'with' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'collide' (= टकरा जाना, टक्कर हो जाना) या 'collision' (= भिड़न्त, टक्कर) के बाद Preposition 'with' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- A speedy car collided with a truck.
- The school bus was involved in a collision with a truck.

- 'against' will be replaced with 'with' because the preposition 'with' is used after 'collide' or 'collision'; As-

- A speedy car collided with a truck.
- The school bus was involved in a collision with a truck

9. (A) Part (A) में 'A real brave man' के बदले 'A really brave man' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'real' एक Adjective है और 'really' एक Adverb, और Adjective 'brave' की विशेषता Adverb 'really' बताएगा, न कि Adjective 'real' देखें-

- i. A really hot fire.
- ii. A really dangerous activity.

• In Part (A) 'A real brave man' should be replaced with 'A really brave man' because 'real' is an Adjective And 'really' is an Adverb, and Adjective 'brave' will characterize Adverb 'really', not Adjective 'real' See-

- i. A really hot fire.
- ii. A really dangerous activity.

10. **Qualitative** (adjective) – Involving distinctions based on qualities गुणात्मक

11. **Vigorous** (adjective) – healthy and strong ज़ोरदार

- **Apparent** (adjective) – obvious, evident, clear, manifest, plain स्पष्ट
- **Thorough** (adjective) – complete, total, comprehensive, absolute संपूर्ण, गहन
- **Sustainable** (adjective) – Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level. टिकाऊ

12. **Ought to** (modal verb) – should, must करना चाहिए

13. **However** – used to introduce a statement that contrasts with or seems to contradict something that has been said previously.

14. **Panacea** (noun) – Solution, answer, remedy, cure-all, cure, magic bullet राम-बाण

- **Stampede** (noun) – a situation where a large group of people run in the same direction भगदड़, खलबली
- **Limitation** (noun) – a condition of limited ability; a defect or failing बाधा

16. (E) **3241**

After years of being in limbo, there is a surge of optimism around DMH-11, or Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11, a variety developed using genetic engineering techniques by Indian scientists and public funds. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex regulator and an arm of the Environment Ministry, last week cleared the variety for environmental release. The seed can be grown in fields for producing more of its kind and is a precursor to it being approved for commercial release. DMH-11 employs genes from soil bacterium that makes mustard, a self-pollinating plant, amenable to being crossed with other varieties and producing hybrid varieties.

17. **Moratorium** (noun) – a temporary stopping of an activity, especially by official agreement स्थगन

According to the given options only (i) AND (ii) are contextually correct.

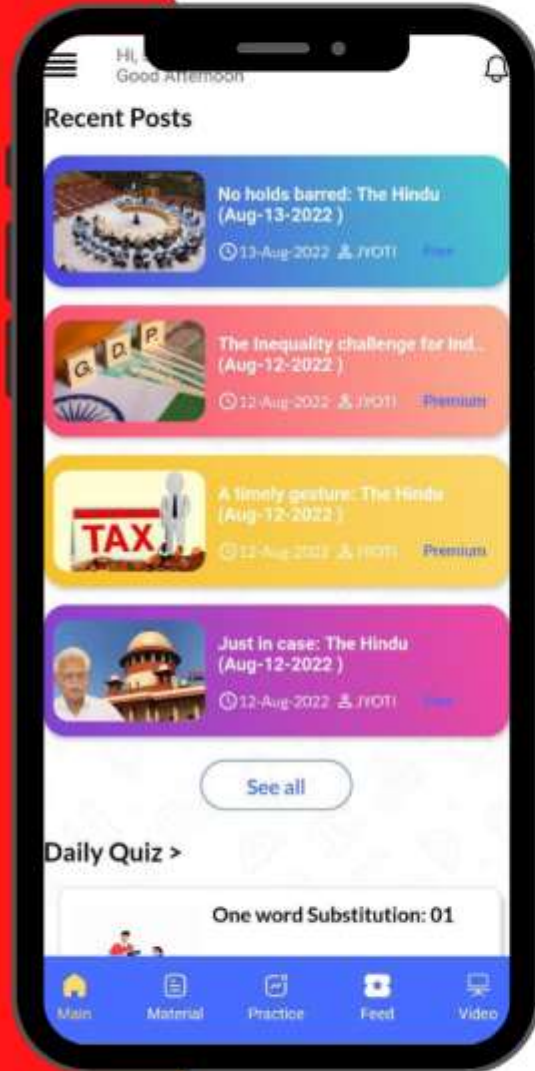
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

Provided appropriate consents had been obtained, oocytes were obtained from patients undergoing therapeutic in vitro fertilisation for the treatment of male factor infertility.

18. However, the uncertainty around regulatory policy regarding seed development hinders this. To signal transformation, the Government must second the approval by GEAC and restore the system, whereby scientific consent — rather than political considerations — determines the availability of products to farmers and consumers.
19. **While** US policy-makers broadly understand this, it has not translated to action on the ground.

### Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q6	<b>Auspicious</b>	adjective	Favorable; promising; pointing to a good result	शुभ, अनुकूल, मंगल
	<b>Culinary</b>	adjective	Relating to cooking or the kitchen	पाक शाला संबंधी, रसोई का
	<b>Inaugurate</b>	verb	To begin officially; to induct formally into office	अभिषेक करना
Q7	<b>Patent</b>	adjective	Obvious	प्रत्यक्ष
	<b>Cursory</b>	adjective	Hasty; superficial	सतही; त्वरित
	<b>Futile</b>	adjective	Useless; hopeless	व्यर्थ, निष्फल
Q8	<b>Blithe</b>	adjective	Carefree; cheerful	ज़िंदादिल
	<b>Volition</b>	noun	Will; conscious choice	इच्छाशक्ति
	<b>Cosmopolitan</b>	adjective	At home in many places or situations; internationally sophisticated	सर्वदेशीय, सार्वलौकिक



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

