

## A small uptick: On November's GST revenues

Tax collections show consumers have been **cautious** about festive spending

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues grew almost 11% this November to nearly ₹1.46 lakh crore. While this is only the tenth such **occasion** since the **onset** of the GST in July 2017 that revenues have been over ₹1.4 lakh crore, that **mark** has been **consistently** topped for nine months now. The two highest GST monthly **receipts so far** — over ₹1.67 lakh crore in April and ₹1.51 lakh crore in October — **were** partly **bolstered** by taxpayers filing quarterly returns. **Discounting periodic spikes in compliance**, one can possibly **peg** the ₹1.4 lakh crore as the new normal **baseline** for monthly GST revenues **hereon**. With almost ₹12 lakh crore already in the GST **kitty** this year, the Government is likely to **end up** with a **not-insignificant surplus** over its Budget. This is welcome **fiscal headroom**, especially since the Centre's **subsidy bill** on items such as fertilizers and foodgrains **has** also **surpassed** the Budget **math**, and **may** help the Government **stick** to its **fiscal deficit** target. On the **flip side**, however, November's GST revenues are not an **enthusing** indicator about the state of the broader economy.

The 10.9% overall GST revenue **growth** in November, **reflecting** transactions **undertaken** in October when the major festivals, including Deepavali, occurred — **is** the slowest uptick recorded since June 2021. November revenues were the lowest in three months and **marked** a nearly 4% **dip** from October's kitty. **E-way bills generation**, **broadly** indicating outflow of goods from producers to the wholesale and retail supply chains, **dropped** a **steeper** 8.6% sequentially, **perhaps** as factories recorded higher **downtimes amid** extended holidays. One would have expected festive consumption to spike the GST **intake** despite the e-way bills decline, as **inventories** were already **built up in anticipation**. That effect appears **muted** and it is quite **puzzling** that revenues **contracted** year-on-year in as many as seven States, including Gujarat and Kerala. **Growth** in inflows from domestic transactions **slowed** from 18% in October to 8% last month, while **revenues** from imports of goods **rose** to 20% in November — a possible sign that the consumption recovery remains **uneven**, with goods consumed by higher income groups seeing a better **rebound**. December's post-festival GST collections could **yield** a clearer picture, both on the **sustainability** of the **headline** revenue numbers and the growth **trajectory** of the economy. **The GST Council**, meeting this month after another **prolonged** gap, **must expedite long-awaited** action on pending issues to **bolster** compliance, and not **lose sight of** the larger, currently-deferred plan to **rationalise** the tax rates **with a view to spurring broad-based and sustainable** consumption growth. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Uptick** (noun) – A small increase, rise इजाफा
2. **Cautious** (adjective) – careful, prudent, circumspect, wary सतर्क
3. **Occasion** (noun) – Time, case, juncture, event, instance, incident घटना, मौका
4. **Onset** (noun) – start, commencement, beginning शुरुआत
5. **Mark** (noun) – point, level, stage, degree स्तर
6. **Consistently** (adverb) – Constantly, always, time after time, time and again लगातार
7. **So far** (phrase) – thus far अभी तक
8. **Bolster** (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, encourage, support, augment, sustain. मजबूत करना
9. **Discount** (verb) – disregard, pay no attention to, take a no notice of पर कोई ध्यान न दें
10. **Periodic** (adjective) – regular, at fixed intervals, recurrent. सामयिक
11. **Spike** (noun) – a rapid increase उछाल
12. **Compliance** (noun) – adherence, observance, conformity, acquiescence अनुपालन
13. **Peg** (verb) – Fix (a price, rate, or amount) at a particular level.
14. **Baseline** (noun) – A minimum or starting point used for comparisons.
15. **Hereon** (adverb) – On this place यहाँ
16. **Kitty** (noun) – A pool or reserve of money, often collected from a number of people or sources and designated for a particular purpose.
17. **End up** (phrasal verb) – to reach or come to a place, condition, or situation that was not planned or expected पहुंचना (अंत में)
18. **Non-insignificant** (adjective) – quite large or significant महत्वपूर्ण
19. **Surplus** (noun) – excess, overabundance, surfeit, plethora अधिशेष
20. **Fiscal** (adjective) – Financial, monetary वित्तीय
21. **Headroom** (noun) – scope, flexibility, margin, freedom, latitude स्वतंत्रता
22. **Surpass** (verb) – exceed, outdo, outstrip, outshine पार करना
23. **Math** (noun) – calculation, figure गणना
24. **Stick** (verb) – adhere to a commitment, belief, or rule पर टिके रहना

25. **Fiscal deficit** (noun) – the condition when the expenditure of the government exceeds its revenue in a year राजकोषीय घाटा
26. **Flip side** (noun) – negative aspects of idea, plan, or situation प्रतिकूल पहलू
27. **Enthusing** (adjective) – Stimulating, galvanising, exciting, motivating उत्साहजनक
28. **Reflect** (verb) – Indicate, show, display, manifest, exhibit, signify, suggest दिखाना
29. **Undertake** (verb) – begin, start, embark on, venture on आरंभ करना
30. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, Denote, Show, Demonstrate, Exhibit चिह्नित करना
31. **Dip** (noun) – Fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, plunge गिरावट
32. **E-way bill** (noun) – E-way bill is a mechanism to ensure that goods being transported comply with the GST Law and is a tool to track movement of goods and check tax evasion.
33. **Broadly** (adverb) – in general and without considering minor details. मोटे तौर पर
34. **Steep** (adjective) – sudden, sharp, rapid. तीव्र
35. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, for all I know, for all you know शायद
36. **Downtime** (noun) – time when one is not working or active.
37. **Amid** (preposition) – in the middle of. के बीच
38. **Inventory** (noun) – the amount of goods a shop has, or the value of them भंडार
39. **Build up** (phrasal verb) – to increase in quantity, or to add more of something so it increases in quantity बढ़ाना
40. **Anticipation** (noun) – expectation, hope प्रत्याशा, पूर्वानुमान
41. **Muted** (adjective) – Subdued, quiet, low-key मंद
42. **Puzzling** (adjective) – difficult to understand, perplexing, mystifying, bewildering, confusing, हैरान करने वाली
43. **Contract** (verb) – reduce, decrease, diminish, lessen कम करना
44. **Uneven** (adjective) – irregular, unequal, rough, jagged, lopsided असमान
45. **Rebound** (noun) – Recovery पलटाव
46. **Yield** (verb) – give, produce, generate, bring forth पैदा करना
47. **Sustainability** (noun) – The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level. स्थिरता

48. **Headline** (adjective) – a headline amount, number, or rate is the most important one or the one that people notice most
49. **Trajectory** (noun) – Path, arc, curve, track, course प्रक्षेप-पथ
50. **Prolonged** (adjective) – extended, lengthy, protracted, long, lengthened लंबे समय तक
51. **Expedite** (verb) – accelerate, hasten, speed up, facilitate, quicken तेजी से करना
52. **Long-awaited** (adjective) – having been hoped for or expected for a long time. लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित
53. **Bolster** (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, encourage, support, augment, sustain मजबूत करना
54. **Lose sight of** (phrase) – fail to consider, pay no attention to
55. **Deferred** (adjective) – postponed, delayed स्थगित
56. **Rationalize** (verb) – streamline, make more efficient, hone, simplify, युक्तिसंगत बनाना
57. **With a view to** (phrase) – with the hope, aim, or intention of. के विचार से
58. **Spur** (verb) – motivate, inspire, stimulate, encourage, galvanize प्रोत्साहित करना
59. **Broad-based** (adjective) – Wide-ranging; general. व्यापक
60. **Sustainable** (adjective) – Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level. टिकाऊ

## Practice Exercise

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

1. While this is only the tenth such occasion since the onset of the GST in July 2017 that revenues have been over ₹1.4 lakh crore
  - A. Proliferate
  - B. Beginning
  - C. Patrician
  - D. Prolific
2. This is welcome fiscal headroom, especially since the Centre's subsidy bill on items such as fertilizers and foodgrains has also surpassed the Budget math
  - A. Fabrication
  - B. Mentor
  - C. Encroach
  - D. Freedom
3. The GST Council, meeting this month after another prolonged gap, must expedite long-awaited action on pending issues to bolster compliance
  - A. Strengthen
  - B. Incipient
  - C. Alacrity
  - D. Indolent
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

"I'm worried about my job. I think my company is heading into choppy waters."

  - A. To arrange for an event or activity to happen
  - B. The last comment or decision about something
  - C. Story or event used as warning
  - D. Troublesome, difficult or uncertain times
5. **Direction: Five 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 Union budget numbers indicate that the government has once again chosen to be conservative in the assumptions it has made for estimating its fiscal position.**

**P.** If collections this year outstrip the revised estimates, it will make the task of achieving next year's targets even less challenging.

**Q.** Based on tax collections in the first nine months of the year (April to December), and the revised estimates for the full year, it appears that the Centre has budgeted for tax collections to fall in the last quarter.

**R.** Even for the last quarter (January-December) of this year, the government appears to have been rather cautious in its estimation of revenue receipts.

S. In a similar vein, for the upcoming financial year, it has estimated tax collections to grow even lower than nominal GDP growth — gross tax revenues are pegged to grow at just 9.6 per cent.

T. This seems cautious, considering that the Economic Survey, tabled a day earlier, had pegged real GDP growth at 8-8.5 per cent.

U. To begin with, it has assumed a nominal GDP growth at 11.1 per cent in 2022-23.

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

A. P

B.S

C.T

D.Q

E.U

**Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

6. Ajeet (A)/ is a bigger scholar (B) than his brother. (C)/ No error(D)
7. Whenever I saw (A)/ him, he (B)/ has been reading the same novel. (C)/ No error(D)
8. He is (A)/ better than any boy (B)/ in the class. (C)/ No error(D)
9. Anil ought (A)/ not to tell me (B)/ your secret, but he did. (C)/ No error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
  - A. Recurring
  - B. Fervent
  - C. Desparity
  - D. Overwhelm

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

**(The Hindu Editorial: Love and loss – Oct 04, 2022)**

was, the most telling comment on the incident was made by an injured survivor, who rightfully blamed the police for “dehumanising” the spectators. **(1)**/ When some spectators descended onto the pitch after the game and engaged in scuffles, **(2)**/ As tragic as the stampede in the Kanjuruhan Stadium, in East Java, Indonesia, that killed at least 125 people after a football game on Saturday night, **(3)**/ the police over-reacted with the use of tear gas, leading the fans on the pitch and others to scamper to the nearest gate, only to find it closed, resulting in a crowd rush and asphyxiation. **(4)** This accident is     **11**     of other crowd-related tragedies such as the deaths of eight people in January 2022 during the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon, those of 74 spectators in Port Said, Egypt in 2012 and 97 Liverpool supporters at Hillsborough in Yorkshire, England in 1989. In all three cases, the deaths were less the result of hooliganism and more to do with police     **12**     and crowd control failure. FIFA, football’s governing body, has come up with a clear guideline on stadium safety — “no firearms or crowd control gas shall be carried or used” by police or stewards in charge of crowd control. This guideline is not without reason. Policing of this kind is done to bring order when violence goes beyond control and descends     **13**     riots and there is little thought for public safety. With stadiums being regulated and closed spaces, using firearms or tear gas for crowd control would only result in furthering chaos and threats to public safety. It is only     **14**     that the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights is planning to investigate the use of tear gas by the police and civil society organisations are asking for the organisers and police to be brought to trial.

With legions of passionate supporters across several countries, football is unquestionably the world's most popular spectator sport, largely due to its simplicity and emphasis on skill and team work. But the flip side of spectator passion is that their tribal emotions for and against some teams or players overcome their appreciation of the abilities of the players or actual play. This false consciousness of identifying with the actual participants (A)/ in a competitive game while merely being a spectator, are a key reason (B)/ for the inflamed passions that come with the territory of spectator sports, (C)/ which are also fanned by commercial and political interests. (D)

While the blame for the deaths in Kanjuruhan should be on the police for **tragedies(A)** crowd control, the **recurrent(B)** nature of such **overzealous(C)** should also make every sport fan **introspect(D)** on the role of a spectator. It's one thing to appreciate the beautiful game, it's quite another if that appreciation turns into a fatal attraction.

**Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)**

11. This accident is \_\_\_\_\_ of other crowd-related tragedies such as the deaths of eight people in January 2022 during the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon
  - A. Reminiscent
  - B. Proprietary
  - C. Infinitesimal
  - D. Stipulating
12. In all three cases, the deaths were less the result of hooliganism and more to do with police \_\_\_\_\_ and crowd control failure.
  - A. Wanton
  - B. Idiosyncrasy
  - C. Incompetence
  - D. Profound
13. Policing of this kind is done to bring order when violence goes beyond control and descends \_\_\_\_\_ riots and there is little thought for public safety.
  - A. Into
  - B. Of
  - C. On
  - D. Above
14. It is only \_\_\_\_\_ that the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights is planning to investigate the use of tear gas by the police and civil society organisations are asking for the organisers and police to be brought to trial.
  - A. Sloth
  - B. laconic
  - C. Portent
  - D. Apt
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.**

This false consciousness of identifying with the actual participants **(A)**/ in a competitive game while merely being a spectator, are a key reason **(B)**/ for the inflamed passions that come with the territory of spectator sports, **(C)**/ which are also fanned by commercial and political interests. **(D)**

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error

16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

was, the most telling comment on the incident was made by an injured survivor, who rightfully blamed the police for “dehumanising” the spectators.**(1)**/ When some spectators descended onto the pitch after the game and engaged in scuffles, **(2)**/ As tragic as the stampede in the Kanjuruhan Stadium, in East Java, Indonesia, that killed at least 125 people after a football game on Saturday night, **(3)**/ the police over-reacted with the use of tear gas, leading the fans on the pitch and others to scamper to the nearest gate, only to find it closed, resulting in a crowd rush and asphyxiation. **(4)**

- A. 2341
- B. 3124
- C. 2314
- D. 2143
- E. 3142

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

**OVERZEALOUS**

- (i) Local government officials enforcing the expulsion order were often **overzealous** in carrying out the instructions.
- (ii) The setting of guards over ripe crops was commonplace, and the watchmen were frequently armed and occasionally **overzealous**.
- (iii) Consequently, investigators have attempted to define more clearly the factors that may identify late talkers who will present with **overzealous** difficulties later in life.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. All are correct

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.

While the blame for the deaths in Kanjuruhan should be on the police for **tragedies(A)** crowd control, the **recurrent(B)** nature of such **overzealous(C)** should also make every sport fan **introspect(D)** on the role of a spectator.

- A. A – C
- B. D – A
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- E. No arrangement

19. **Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.**

- (i) All the artful maneuvers suggested by our generals meant fresh movements of the army and a lengthening of its marches,
  - (ii) The only reasonable aim was to shorten those marches
- A. Whereas
  - B. Alike
  - C. Due to
  - D. Unless
  - E. And

20. **Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks**

Though it was their first meeting, he was enamoured \_\_\_\_\_ her talents.

- A. To
- B. Into
- C. By
- D. Of

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

4. **Choppy waters** (phrase) – troublesome, difficult or uncertain times.  
 5. **UTSRQP**

The Union budget numbers indicate that the government has once again chosen to be conservative in the assumptions it has made for estimating its fiscal position. To begin with, it has assumed a nominal GDP growth at 11.1 per cent in 2022-23. This seems cautious, considering that the Economic Survey, tabled a day earlier, had pegged real GDP growth at 8-8.5 per cent. In a similar vein, for the upcoming financial year, it has estimated tax collections to grow even lower than nominal GDP growth — gross tax revenues are pegged to grow at just 9.6 per cent. Even for the last quarter (January-December) of this year, the government appears to have been rather cautious in its estimation of revenue receipts. Based on tax collections in the first nine months of the year (April to December), and the revised estimates for the full year, it appears that the Centre has budgeted for tax collections to fall in the last quarter. If collections this year outstrip the revised estimates, it will make the task of achieving next year's targets even less challenging.

6. (B) 'bigger' के बदले 'better' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'big/ bigger/ Biggest' किसी चीज का 'size' (आकार, माप, विस्तार) बताता है जबकि 'good/ better/ best' किसी व्यक्ति या वस्तु का 'quality' (योग्यता, क्षमता, गुणवत्ता) बताता है; जैसे-

- This house is bigger than that.
- He is a better player than you.
- He is a better scholar than you.

➤ 'better' will be used instead of 'bigger' because 'big/ bigger/ Biggest' refers to the 'size' (size, measure, extent) of something whereas 'good/ better/ best' refers to a person or indicates the 'quality' (ability, capability, quality) of the commodity; As-

- This house is bigger than that.
- He is a better player than you.
- He is a better scholar than you.

7. (C) 'has been reading' के बदले 'was reading' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि past में यदि कोई घटना जारी रही हो और उसी बीच कोई घटना घटी हो तो जारी घटना के लिए Past Continuous और इस बीच घटने वाली घटना के लिए Simple Past का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- When I went there, he was reading a novel.
- He was reading a novel when I went there.
- Whenever I saw him, he was reading a novel.

- 'was reading' will be used instead of 'has been reading' because if an event is continuing in the past and an event has happened in the meantime, then Past Continuous for the continuing event and Simple Past for the event occurring in the meantime is used; As-
  - i. When I went there, he was reading a novel.
  - ii. He was reading a novel when I went there.
  - iii. Whenever I saw him, he was reading a novel.

8. (B) 'any boy' के बदले 'any other boy' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि एक group के एक सदस्य की तुलना उसी group के अन्य सदस्यों से हो, तो Comparative Degree में 'any' के बाद 'other' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

a. Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar.

- 'any other boy' will be used instead of 'any boy' because if a member of a group is compared with other members of the same group, then 'other' is used after 'any' in the comparative degree; As-
  - i. Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar.

9. (B) 'to tell' के बदले 'to have told' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'ought to + V1' का प्रयोग present time के लिए होता है जबकि 'ought to + have + V3' का प्रयोग past time के लिए; जैसे-

- i. You ought to read this book.
- ii. You ought to have read this book.

- 'to have told' will be used instead of 'to tell' because 'ought to + V1' is used for present time while 'ought to + have + V3' is used for past time; As-
  - i. You ought to read this book.
  - ii. You ought to have read this book.

10. **Disparity** (noun) – Difference, inequality, discrepancy, disproportion, gap, inconsistency, incongruence विषमता

11. **Reminiscent** (of) (adjective) – similar to याद ताजा करना

12. **Incompetence** (noun) – ineptitude, inadequacy, inability, ineptness, inefficiency अक्षमता

13. **Descend into** (phrasal verb) – If a situation descends into a particular state, it becomes worse: खराब स्थिति में प्रवेश करना

14. **Apt** (adjective) – appropriate, fitting, suitable, proper, relevant उपयुक्त

15. 'Are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Subject' (i.e. consciousness) is singular.

16. (B) **3124**

As tragic as the stampede in the Kanjuruhan Stadium, in East Java, Indonesia, that killed at least 125 people after a football game on Saturday night, was, the most telling comment on the incident was made by an injured survivor, who rightfully blamed the police for “dehumanising” the spectators. When some spectators descended onto the pitch after the game and engaged in scuffles, the police over-reacted with the use of tear gas, leading the

fans on the pitch and others to scamper to the nearest gate, only to find it closed, resulting in a crowd rush and asphyxiation.

17. **Overzealous** (adjective) – Overenthusiastic, fanatical, manic, obsessive, obsessional, ardent, fervent अति उत्साही

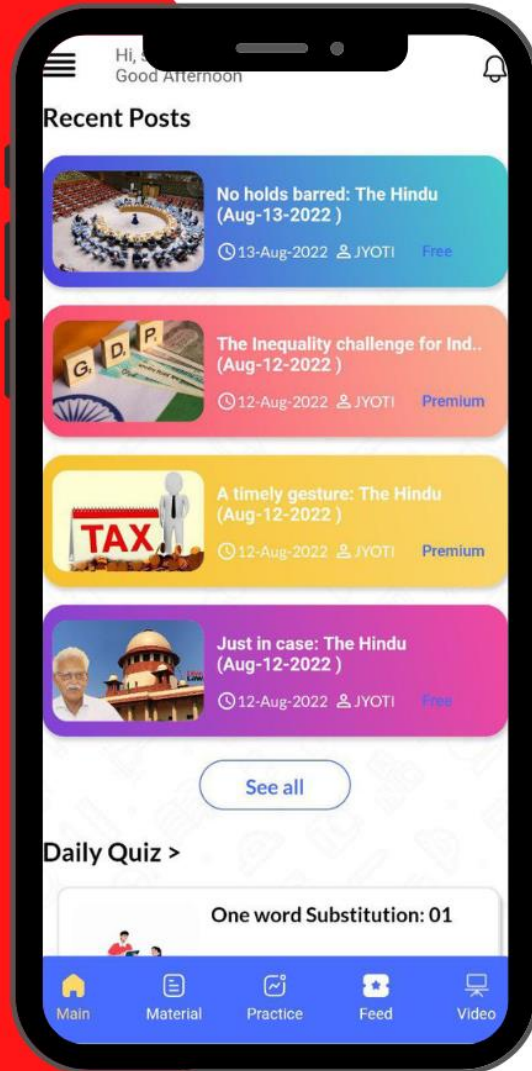
According to the given options only (i) and (ii) are contextually correct.

Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like Consequently, investigators have attempted to define more clearly the factors that may identify late talkers who will present with persistent difficulties later in life.

18. While the blame for the deaths in Kanjuruhan should be on the police for overzealous crowd control, the recurrent nature of such tragedies should also make every sport fan introspect on the role of a spectator
19. All the artful maneuvers suggested by our generals meant fresh movements of the army and a lengthening of its marches, **whereas** the only reasonable aim was to shorten those marches.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Proliferate</b>	verb	To spread or grow rapidly	तेजी से फैलने
	<b>Patrician</b>	noun	A person of noble birth; an aristocrat	कुलीन
	<b>Prolific</b>	adjective	Abundantly productive; fruitful or fertile	उपजाऊ
Q2	<b>Fabrication</b>	noun	A lie; something made up	छलरचना
	<b>Mentor</b>	noun	A teacher, tutor, counselor or coach; especially in business an experienced person who shows an inexperienced person the ropes.	परामर्शदाता
	<b>Encroach</b>	verb	To make gradual or stealthy in roads into; to trespass	अतिक्रमण करना
Q3	<b>Incipient</b>	adjective	Beginning; emerging	उत्पन्न होनेवाला, प्रारंभिक
	<b>Alacrity</b>	noun	Cheerful eagerness or readiness to respond	तत्परता, उत्साह, फुरती
	<b>Indolent</b>	adjective	Lazy	आलसी
Q11	<b>Proprietary</b>	adjective	Characteristics of an owner of property; constituting property	मालिकाना
	<b>Infinitesimal</b>	adjective	Very, very, very small; infinitely small.	बहुत छोटा
	<b>Stipulate</b>	verb	To require something as part of an agreement	शर्त लगाना
Q12	<b>Wanton</b>	adjective	Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious	प्रचंड, अकारण; प्रबल
	<b>Idiosyncrasy</b>	noun	A peculiarity; an eccentricity	स्वभाव, लत, पागलपन
	<b>Profound</b>	adjective	Deep (in several cases)	गहन
Q14	<b>Sloth</b>	noun	Laziness; sluggishness	आलस
	<b>Laconic</b>	adjective	Using few words, especially to the point of seeming rude.	संक्षिप्त
	<b>Portent</b>	noun	An omen; a sign of something coming in the future	लक्षण



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