

## An energy conundrum: On India betting big on solar power

Solar power is important for India, but it will not **serve** every energy need

At the **core** of India's energy transformation is its bet on solar power. Based on a **commitment** to **address** the global climate crisis, India has promised to **source** nearly half its energy from **non-fossil fuel** sources by 2030 and, in the shorter term, source at least 60% of its **renewable energy** from solar power. However, a **disclosure** in Parliament by the Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy **suggests** that India faces significant **headwind** in this **quest**. A key central **policy** to source solar power **is facilitating** the **establishment** of large solar parks; small solar power projects usually **translate** to higher per-unit production costs. And so, in 2014, the Centre announced the 'Solar Parks and Ultra-Mega Solar Power Projects' policy to **facilitate** the creation of large parks. The initial plan was to **set up** 25 parks capable of generating at least 20,000 MW by 2019. In 2017, the Government **scaled** this to 61 parks with a target of 40,000 MW. It emerges, however, as of 2022, that only a fourth of the capacity has been achieved, that is, projects worth 10,000 MW have been **commissioned**. Four projects have been cancelled, by the Centre's own **admission**, due to **tardy** progress. The **roadblocks**, in the Centre's estimate, **have** been challenges in acquiring land with a clear title, setting up **infrastructure** necessary to **transmit** power produced at these parks to the **grid** and, in an unusual disclosure, "environmental issues" in Rajasthan and Gujarat, where projects have been **halted** because their transmission lines **encroach** upon the **habitat** of the **critically endangered Great Indian Bustard**.

**Notwithstanding** its claims on international **podia** that it is on track to **meeting** renewable energy targets, it is no secret that India is **lagging behind**. By the end of 2022, India had **committed** to having **in place** 1,75,000 MW of renewable energy capacity, with 1,00,000 MW from solar power. However, only around 61,000 MW of such capacity has actually been installed. For a few years now, there has been **considerable hype** around solar power achieving **grid parity** in India — meaning power companies are able to sell it at a price lower or as much as **conventional sources** — but this does not **account for** the **subsidies** or **concessions front-loaded** by the Government. While India should continue to **expand** its economy **on the back of** renewable energy, the Government must **take a hard look at** whether renewable power, solar, wind or nuclear, meets standards of **economic viability** and environmental **sustainability**. Solar power may be a valuable tool in India's energy transformation story, but it cannot be the **panacea** for every need. [Practice Exercise]

- **Great Indian Bustard** (noun) – A large bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs, giving it an ostrich like appearance, this bird is among the heaviest of the flying birds
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Conundrum** (noun) – a confusing and difficult problem or question **पहेली**
2. **Betting** (noun) –the action of making a bet on something **बाजी**
3. **Serve** (verb) – to be useful or suitable for a particular purpose **को पूरा करना**
4. **Core** (noun) – the central or most important part of something **मूल**
5. **Commitment** (noun) – vow, promise, pledge, oath **प्रतिबद्धता**
6. **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with **सुलझाना, निपटाना**
7. **Source** (verb) – obtain from a particular source. **प्राप्त करना (स्रोत)**
8. **Non-fossil fuel** (noun) – Hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, wind, and biomass energy are all clean and renewable, and the electric companies are striving to develop them.
9. **Renewable energy** (noun) – energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power
10. **Headwind** (noun) – A source of resistance, as to progress or success
11. **Quest** (noun) – Mission, expedition, pursuit, journey, search **खोज**
12. **Facilitate** (verb) – to make something possible or easier **सुविधाजनक/आसान बनाना**
13. **Establishment** (noun) –setting up, founding, formation, creation, launch **स्थापना**
14. **Translate** (to) (verb) – transform, shift, turn, change **बदलना**
15. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, institute **स्थापित करना**
16. **Scale** (verb) – increase, go up, mount **बढ़ाना**
17. **Commission** (verb) – bring (projects) into working condition. **चालू/शुरू करना**
18. **Admission** (noun) – Confession, declaration, acknowledgment, acceptance **स्वीकृति**
19. **Tardy** (adjective) – sluggish, slow, leisurely, late **सुस्त/धीमा**
20. **Roadblock** (noun) – a hindrance or obstruction. **अवरोध, बाधा**
21. **Infrastructure** (noun) – the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization **बुनियादी ढाँचा, अवसरचना**

22. **Transmit** (verb) – to send or pass something from one place to another  
भेजना
23. **Grid** (noun) – the system of electricity wires, etc. taking power to all parts of a country  
विद्युत-वितरण के लिए बिजली की तारों की व्यवस्था
24. **Halt** (verb) – stop, come to a halt, come to a stop, come to a standstill  
रोक देना
25. **Encroach** (on/upon) (verb) – to intrude upon, impinge, infringe, invade, trespass  
अतिक्रमण करना
26. **Habitat** (noun) – home, habitation  
आवास
27. **Critically** (adverb) – seriously, dangerously, gravely  
गंभीर रूप से
28. **Endangered** (adjective) – threatened, at risk, in danger, jeopardized, endanger  
विलुप्त होने के कगार पर
29. **Notwithstanding** (adv./prep.) – nevertheless, nonetheless, though  
के बावजूद
30. **Podia** (plural noun) – Platform, stage, podium  
मंच
31. **Meet** (verb) – fulfil, achieve, accomplish  
पूरा करना
32. **Lag behind** (phrase) – To move or happen at a slower pace than someone or something else.  
पीछे रहना
33. **Commit** (to) (verb) – Obligate, pledge, promise, compel  
प्रतिबद्ध होना
34. **In place** (phrase) – established; in operation  
स्थापित
35. **Considerable** (adjective) – Substantial, significant, large, extensive, sizeable  
काफी
36. **Hype** (noun) – Publicity, advertising  
प्रचार
37. **Grid parity** (noun) – happens when our use of alternative energies – like solar – costs less than, or equal to, the price of using power from conventional sources.
38. **Conventional source** (noun) – Coal and Petroleum.
39. **Account for** (phrasal verb) – constitute, form, total compose, be responsible for  
के लिये उत्तरदायी होना
40. **Subsidy** (noun) – money given as part of the cost of something to help or encourage it to happen:  
अनुदान
41. **Concession** (noun) – Allowance, Dispensation, Privilege, Reduction  
रियायत
42. **Front-load** (verb) – to incur or pay off (expenses, for example) in an early period of a fiscal arrangement.  
भुगतान करना
43. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden  
बढ़ाना /विस्तार करना
44. **On the back of** (phrase) – because of or on the strength of (something)  
के बल पर

45. **Take a hard look at** (phrase) – to examine something very carefully in order to improve it in the future ज़रा गौर से देखना
46. **Viability** (noun) – ability to work successfully; feasibility, practicality, capability क्षमता, सामर्थ्य
47. **Economic viability** (noun) – The ability to run business/venture profitable.
48. **Environmental sustainability** (noun) – the responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect global ecosystems to support health and wellbeing, now and in the future.
49. **Panacea** (noun) – Solution, answer, remedy, cure-all, cure, magic bullet राम-बाण

### Practice Exercise

**Direction: (Q1 – Q5):** In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

The Hall of Dharma was in a circular building, built of stone and mortar, with a (1)\_\_\_\_\_ dome. The delicate (2)\_\_\_\_\_ of the dome was believed to represent the feminine while the typical temple spire represented the masculine. The hall was also (3)\_\_\_\_\_. All rishis sat as (4)\_\_\_\_\_ without a moderating 'head', debating issues openly and without fear, freedom of (5)\_\_\_\_\_ at its zenith.

1. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.
  - A. massive
  - B. passive
  - C. intrusive
  - D. conclusive
2. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.
  - A. harshness
  - B. masculinity
  - C. vengeance
  - D. elegance
3. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.
  - A. perpendicular
  - B. peculiar
  - C. vertical
  - D. circular
4. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.
  - A. crossed
  - B. unequal
  - C. equals
  - D. conical
5. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.
  - A. depression
  - B. expression
  - C. running
  - D. inspiration

**Directions (Q6–Q7):** In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

6.
  - A. Connundrum
  - B. Conundrum
  - C. Conundrrum
  - D. Conunndrum
7.
  - A. Comitment
  - B. commitement

- C. Comitmmment
- D. Commitment

**Directions (Q8–Q9): Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

8. P. They can help you to decide the right products for you.  
 Q. Advertisements can be extremely useful if they are honest.  
 R. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to such advertisements.  
 S. However, some advertisements may be harmful as they try to befool you.  
 A. RSPQ      B. QPSR      C. QRPS      D. RPSQ
9. P. Our amusements have little zest if we engage in them in solitude.  
 Q. Friendship increases happiness and diminishes misery.  
 R. It doubles our joys and divides our grief.  
 S. When we do well, it is delightful to have friends who are pleased with our success.  
 A. PQSR      B. QRSP      C. SPRQ      D. RQPS

**Directions (Q10-Q12): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.**

10. **The box can contain no more.**  
 A. No more this box can contain  
 B. No more could be contained in this box  
 C. No more can be contained in this box  
 D. Nothing can be contained in this box
11. **They held a meeting and delivered speeches.**  
 A. A meeting was held and de- livered speeches  
 B. A meeting will be held and speeches delivered  
 C. A meeting is held and speeches delivered  
 D. A meeting was held and speeches delivered
12. **It is time for food to be eaten.**  
 A. It is time to eat our food  
 B. It is time for eating food  
 C. It is time to eat  
 D. Food is to be eaten now

**Directions (13-14): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.**

13. **One who criticises popular beliefs which he thinks is mistaken or unwise**  
 A. philistine  
 B. iconoclast  
 C. imposter  
 D. cannibal
14. **Detaining and confining someone**  
 A. interruption  
 B. interrogation

- C. interment
- D. internment

**Directions (15 – 16): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.**

15. I joined college late and found it difficult to catch up with other students.
- A. to compete with
  - B. to come to their level
  - C. to overtake them
  - D. to hold them and stop
16. They have made many changes in the policy, but how many of these changes are going to affect the man in the street ?
- A. the homeless man
  - B. the ordinary man
  - C. the man who works on the street
  - D. the man who repairs roads

**Directions (17-18): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.**

17. **TARDY**

- A. Punctual
- B. Preclude
- C. Catharsis
- D. Consecrate

18. **ENDANGERED**

- A. Monolithic
- B. Languish
- C. Urbane
- D. Protected

**Direction: (19-20): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.**

19. **VIABILITY**

- A. Loquacious
- B. Feasibility
- C. Deprecate
- D. Superfluous

20. **PANACEA**

- A. Quixotic
- B. Adroit
- C. Solution
- D. Approbation

**Directions (21 – 22): In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.**

21. He pleased the directors and this completed his report in good time.

- A. He pleased the directors in good time and this completed his report.
- B. He completed his report in good time and this pleased the directors.
- C. He pleased the directors and completed his report and this in good time.
- D. No improvement

22. The courtiers used to tell the King how efficient an administrator he was all day long.

- A. The courtiers all day long used to tell the King how efficient an administrator he was.
- B. The courtiers used all day long to tell the King how efficient an administrator he was.
- C. The courtiers used to tell the King all day long how efficient an administrator he was.
- D. No improvement

**Directions (Q23– Q25): Find out the error, if any –**

23. If you had told me, (A)/ I would have helped you (B)/ solve the problem. (C)/ No Error. (D)

24. 'The Arabian Nights'(A)/ are indeed (B)/ an interesting book. (C)/ No Error. (D)

25. He (A)/ loved her (B)/ despite of himself. (C)/ No Error. (D)



## Answers

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

## Explanations

1. **Massive** (Adjective) – Huge, enormous, gigantic, immense, colossal बड़े पैमाने पर
  - **Passive** – Inert, inactive, unreceptive, submissive निष्क्रिय
  - **Intrusive** – Invasive, disturbing, indiscreet, interfering दखल देने वाला
  - **Conclusive** – Decisive, definite, convincing निर्णायक
2. **Elegance** (noun) – Stylishness, grace, class, classiness लालित्य, रम्यता
  - **Harshness** – Severity, austerity, ruggedness, bleakness, starkness कठोरता
  - **Masculinity** – maleness, manliness, virility, mannishness पौरुष
  - **Vengeance** – Revenge, retribution, reprisal, retaliation प्रतिशोध
3. **Circular**
4. **Equal**
5. **Freedom of expression** – Freedom of expression gives you the right to hold your own opinions and to express them freely without interference अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता
6. **Conundrum** (noun) – a confusing and difficult problem or question पहेली
7. **Commitment** (noun) – vow, promise, pledge, oath प्रतिबद्धता
8. **QPSR**  
 Advertisements can be extremely useful if they are honest. They can help you to decide the right products for you. However, some advertisements may be harmful as they try to befool you. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to such advertisements.
9. **QRSP**  
 Friendship increases happiness and diminishes misery. It doubles our joys and divides our grief. When we do well, it is delightful to have friends who are pleased with our success. Our amusements have little zest if we engage in them in solitude.
10. No more can be contained in this box
11. A meeting was held and speeches delivered
12. Food is to be eaten now
13. **Iconoclast** - One who criticises popular beliefs which he thinks is mistaken or unwise मूर्तिभञ्जक
  - **Philistine** – a person who does not like/understand art, literature, music, etc. अशिक्षित

- **Imposter** – a person who pretends to be somebody else in order to trick people  
धोखेबाज
  - **Cannibal** – a person who eats human flesh नरभक्षी
14. **Internment** - Detaining and confining someone नजरबंदी
- **Interruption** – something that temporarily stops an activity or a situation रुकावट
  - **Interrogation** – formal systematic questioning; examination पूछताछ
  - **Interment** – the burial of a corpse in a grave or tomb, typically with funeral rites.  
दफनना
15. **To catch up with** (phrase) – to come to their level एक स्तर पर आना
16. **The man in the street** (phrase) – the ordinary man साधारण आदमी
17. **Tardy** (adjective) – sluggish, slow, leisurely, late सुस्त/धीमा
- **Preclude** (verb) – To prevent something from ever happening बंद करना
  - **Catharsis** (noun) – Purification that brings emotional relief or renewal साफ़ हो जाना
  - **Consecrate** (verb) – To make or declare sacred पवित्र, प्रतिष्ठित
18. **Endangered** (adjective) – threatened, at risk, in danger, jeopardized, endanger विलुप्त होने के कगार पर
- **Monolithic** (adjective) – Massive, solid, uniform and unyielding अखंड
  - **Languish** (verb) – To become weak, listless, or depressed दुर्बल
  - **Urbane** (adjective) – Poised; sophisticated; refined परिष्कृत
19. **Viability** (noun) – ability to work successfully; feasibility, practicality, capability क्षमता, सामर्थ्य
- **Loquacious** (adjective) – Talking a lot or too much बातूनी
  - **Deprecate** (verb) – To express disapproval of विरोध करना
  - **Superfluous** (adjective) – Extra; unnecessary; redundant ज़रूरत से ज़्यादा
20. **Panacea** (noun) – Solution, answer, remedy, cure-all, cure, magic bullet राम-बाण
- **Quixotic** (adjective) – Romantic or idealistic to a foolish or impractical degree विलक्षण

- **Adroit** (adjective) – Skillful; dexterous; clever; shrewd; socially at ease निपुण, चतुर
- **Approbation** (noun) – Approval; praise प्रशंसा, समर्थन

21. He completed his report in good time and this pleased the directors.

**In good time** (idiom): early; with enough time so that you may not be in a hurry जल्दी

He completed his report in good time and this pleased the directors is the right option

22. The courtiers used to tell the King all day long how efficient an administrator he was.

**All day long** (idioms): throughout the day the countries used to tell the king all day long how efficient an administrator he was is the right option दिन भर

23. (D) No error.

24. (B) 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'The Arabian Nights' एक 'पुस्तक' का नाम है और किसी भी 'देश, संगठन, बीमारी, खेल, पुस्तक' का नाम यदि form ( स्वरूप ) में Plural भी है तो function (कार्य) में उसे हमेशा Singular माना जाता है; जैसे-

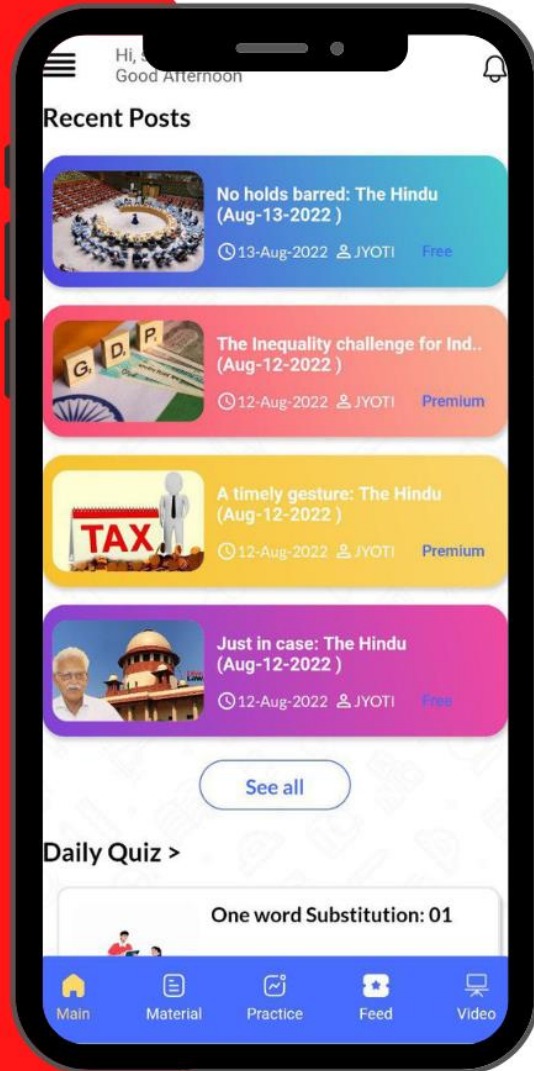
- 'The Rivals' is a famous comedy of Sheridan.
- The United States is the most powerful country in the world.
- Measles is a serious disease.

(B) 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because 'The Arabian Nights' is the name of a 'book' and the name of any 'country, organization, disease, sport, book' if it is in plural forms then it is always considered singular in the function; like-

- 'The Rivals' is a famous comedy of Sheridan.
- The United States is the most powerful country in the world.
- Measles is a serious disease

25. (C) 'despite' के बाद 'of' का प्रयोग नहीं होगा क्योंकि 'despite' = in spite of (के बावजूद)।

'of' shall not be used after 'despite' because 'despite' = 'in spite of'



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

