

## Slowing momentum: On palpable softening in economic momentum

Persistent **inflation** alongside moderate growth **remains** a challenge

**Latest data**, including the official Index of Eight Core Industries for September and S&P Global's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector for October, **point to** a palpable softening in economic momentum. The government's **provisional figures** for output across the key infrastructure industries, from cement and coal to steel and electricity, **show** the average year-on-year growth in production **eased appreciably** to a four-month low of 8.1% in September, from the 12.5% **pace** posted in August. The pace of **expansion flagged** across all but one of the eight sectors, with only fertilizers **registering** a **quicken**ing in growth from the **preceding** month as farmers **stocked up** on the key agricultural input ahead of the rabi season. **Heavy rains** in the final month of the southwest monsoon season, which **resulted in** 13% **surplus precipitation** for September, also **likely contributed** to **dampening** demand and output for cement, electricity and steel, all of which saw significant slowing in growth from double-digit paces in August. Sequentially, production in fact **contracted** across all the eight sectors, with the overall index declining 4.8% from August's level. Coal offered the **silver lining**: the year-on-year growth in output of the fuel eased only slightly to a still **robust** 16.1% pace, from August's 17.9%, and posted just a 1.5% **sequential contraction**.

Independently, the more up-to-date survey-based manufacturing PMI data for October **buttresses** concerns that broader economic momentum may yet again be sliding **for want of traction**. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI signalled sectoral growth slid to an eight-month low last month, amid a weakening in demand, particularly for consumer goods. Factories saw new orders rise at the slowest pace in a year, with even international sales losing **vigour**. More worrying is the fact that less than 4% of the about 400 companies surveyed said they were adding staff, thus depressing job creation in manufacturing to the slowest level since April. **Input cost** inflation also **accelerated**. But **factory gate** inflation was considerably slower indicating that with demand uncertain, producers were forced to **temper** the **pass-through** of higher costs. With business confidence **ebbing** to a five-month low, the panellists **cited** rising inflation expectations as the key factor expected to **dent** demand and production growth over the next 12 months. And the advance **estimates** for lower kharif output, **disconcertingly flag** the fact that the farm sector may be able to offer little **succour** as rural incomes get hit. **Policymakers have their task cut out to surmount** the twin challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Flag** (verb) – Indicate, signal, highlight, mark, signal संकेत करना

## Vocabulary

1. **Momentum** (noun) – Velocity, impetus, drive, thrust, force गति
2. **Palpable** (adjective) – Tangible, perceptible, noticeable, discernible, apparent स्पष्ट
3. **Softening** (noun) – Relaxation, lessening, weakening, easing, slackening नरमी
4. **Persistent** (adjective) – Enduring, constant, continual, sustained, relentless लगातार
5. **Inflation** (noun) – Price rise, cost escalation, economic expansion, hyperinflation, surcharge महंगाई
6. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, signify, denote, imply संकेत करना
7. **Provisional** (adjective) – Temporary, interim, conditional, tentative, provisional अस्थायी
8. **Ease** (verb) – Lessen, alleviate, reduce, mitigate, relax कम करना
9. **Appreciably** (adverb) – Significantly, considerably, notably, markedly, substantially पर्याप्त रूप से
10. **Pace** (noun) – Speed, tempo, rate, cadence, rhythm गति
11. **Expansion** (noun) – Growth, enlargement, increase, extension, proliferation विस्तार
12. **Flag** (verb) – Decline, weaken, falter, wane, dwindle कमजोर पड़ना
13. **Register** (verb) – Record, log, enroll, note, enter दर्ज करना
14. **Quickening** (noun) – Acceleration, hastening, speeding up, increase in speed, spurt तेजी
15. **Preceding** (adjective) – Previous, prior, foregoing, antecedent, preceding पूर्ववर्ती
16. **Stock up** (phrasal verb) – Accumulate, hoard, amass, store up, gather जमा करना
17. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, engender परिणाम होना
18. **Surplus** (adjective) – Excess, extra, spare, remaining, additional अतिरिक्त
19. **Precipitation** (noun) – Rainfall, snow, sleet, downpour, rain वर्षा
20. **Likely** (adjective) – Probable, possible, plausible, conceivable, probable संभावित
21. **Dampen** (verb) – Discourage, deaden, depress, damp, reduce निरुत्साहित करना
22. **Contract** (verb) – Shrink, reduce, diminish, condense, constrict संकुचित करना

23. **Silver lining** (phrase) – Hopeful aspect, positive side, ray of hope, upside आशा की किरण
24. **Robust** (adjective) – Strong, sturdy, resilient, hardy, tough मजबूत
25. **Sequential** (adjective) – Consecutive, successive, serial, ordered, chronological क्रमिक
26. **Contraction** (noun) – Reduction, decrease, diminution, decline, shrinkage घटाव
27. **Buttress** (verb) – Support, reinforce, strengthen, fortify, uphold सहारा देना
28. **For want of** (phrase) – Due to lack of, because of the absence of, lacking, in the absence of के अभाव में
29. **Traction** (noun) – Popularity
30. **Vigour** (noun) – Energy, vitality, verve, zest, pep ऊर्जा
31. **Input cost** (noun) – it includes cost of direct material, direct labor, and other overhead items devoted to the production of a good or service.
32. **Accelerate** (verb) – Speed up, hasten, expedite, quicken, escalate तेज़ी लाना
33. **Factory gate** (noun) – the price of the product available at the factory, excluding any separately billed transport or delivery charge.
34. **Temper** (verb) – Moderate, soften, mitigate, modulate, mollify कम करना
35. **Pass-through** (noun) – The process by which one entity passes a cost to another entity. लागत पारित करना
36. **Ebb** (verb) – Recede, wane, diminish, decline, lessen घटना
37. **Cite** (verb) – Reference, mention, quote, refer to, invoke हवाला देना
38. **Dent** (verb) – Damage, nick, notch, depress, impair नुकसान पहुँचाना
39. **Disconcertingly** (adverb) – In a disturbing or unsettling manner चिंताजनक ढंग से
40. **Succour** (noun) – Assistance, aid, help, relief, support सहायता
41. **Policymaker** (noun) – A person responsible for making policy, especially in government. नीति निर्माता
42. **Have one's task cut out** (phrase) – have a difficult job to do
43. **Surmount** (verb) – Overcome (a difficulty or obstacle), Conquer काबू पाना/ हराना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The economic momentum is visibly softening, with both growth and inflation posing challenges.
2. The Index of Eight Core Industries showed slower growth in September, indicating a decline in economic activity.
3. The average year-on-year growth in these industries fell from 12.5% in August to 8.1% in September.
4. Growth decelerated in seven of the eight sectors, with only the fertilizer sector showing an increase due to pre-rabi season demand.
5. Heavy monsoon rains in September negatively impacted the demand and output for cement, electricity, and steel.
6. There was a 4.8% contraction across all eight core sectors from August to September.
7. Coal output remained robust despite a slight decrease in growth rate compared to the previous month.
8. The S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI for October indicated a decline in manufacturing sector growth to an eight-month low.
9. The slowdown is driven by weakened demand, especially for consumer goods, and slower new order growth.
10. International sales declined, and only a small fraction of companies reported workforce expansions, suggesting low job creation in manufacturing.
11. Input cost inflation is rising, but the increase in product prices is limited due to uncertain demand.
12. Business confidence fell to a five-month low, with inflation expectations seen as a threat to future demand and production.
13. Lower kharif crop production estimates suggest that the agriculture sector may not offer relief amid rural income constraints.
14. Policymakers face the significant challenge of managing slowing growth while dealing with persistent inflation.
15. The economic indicators highlight the need for strategic action to boost economic traction and address inflationary pressures.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern based

1. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred as the primary factor that influenced the slowdown in the economic momentum?** [Editorial page]
  - A. The unexpected increase in the production of coal.
  - B. The government's change in economic policies.
  - C. Adverse weather conditions impacting key industries.
  - D. A significant improvement in the fertilizer industry.
2. **What does the passage suggest about the sectoral performance in the economy for the period under discussion?**
  - A. Most sectors experienced a robust growth compared to the previous year.
  - B. Fertilizers were the only sector that showed a deceleration in growth.
  - C. There was a sequential contraction in production across all eight sectors from the previous month.
  - D. Coal production saw a dramatic decline in both year-on-year and sequential growth.
3. **Based on the passage, what is the primary concern highlighted by the S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI data for October?**
  - A. The manufacturing sector showed an unexpected increase in growth.
  - B. The sector experienced a decline to an eight-month low, driven by weakened demand and slow new order growth.
  - C. There was a significant rise in the employment rate within the manufacturing sector.
  - D. Input cost inflation decelerated, indicating a positive trend for the manufacturing sector.
4. **What dual challenges identified in the passage are policymakers tasked with addressing?**
  - A. Addressing the slowing economic growth and controlling persistent inflation.
  - B. Enhancing business confidence and reducing input cost inflation.
  - C. Increasing international sales and sectoral growth.
  - D. Boosting the kharif output and tempering factory gate inflation.
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Indifferent
  - C. Alarmed
  - D. Cautionary
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The unpredictability of the monsoon season
  - B. The resilience of the agricultural sector
  - C. Challenges faced by the manufacturing sector due to changing demand
  - D. The dual challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation
7. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
  - P. 10 years before the decision to construct the 9.02-km double-lane tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister
  - Q. The inauguration of the strategically important, all-weather Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh marks the realisation of a decades-long project, once considered too difficult to be implemented

- R. The highest-altitude tunnel in the world and one of the longest in the country, it is nothing short of an engineering marvel of which the Border Roads Organisation, other agencies, contractors and the expert workforce can be justifiably proud
- S. The feasibility study was first done in 1990,  
A. QRSP      B.PSRQ      C.QSPR      D.PQSR
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Captain Amarinder Singh-led Congress government is exploring legal options to challenge these Bills
- Q. The lack of clarity over the farm laws is now more than apparent with Haryana barring farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan from bringing paddy and bajra for sale in the state's markets
- R. the Shiromani Akali Dal has chosen to opt out of the government at the Centre of which it was a part, following disagreement over the matter, even as farmer unions have decided to intensify their agitation and the
- S. The decision by the BJP-JJP coalition government has come at a time when paddy procurement has just begun and in neighbouring Punjab,  
A. QRSP      B.QSRP      C.PSQR      D.PRQS
9. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**  
The cats food bowl was empty, so he meowed incessantly until his owner finally filled it with fresh kibble.  
A. The cats'  
B. A cat's  
C. A cats'  
D. The cat's
10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.  
Get your act together  
A. To have patience  
B. To stay together  
C. To act in a play  
D. Get organised and do things better
11. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.  
Unpleasant  
A. Nebulous  
B. Natal  
C. Negligible  
D. Nasty
12. **The following sentence has been divided into four parts. Identify the part that contains an error.**  
(A) The mother exclaimed / (B) when she saw her son / (C) stumble on the race track, / (D) "Look, he fell!"  
A. B

- B. D  
C. C  
D. A
13. **Select the most appropriate option that can rectify the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to rectify it, select 'no rectification needed'.**  
The conductor said that it was the worse quake he ever knew.  
A. more bad  
B. bad  
C. no rectification needed  
D. worst
14. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the following sentence.**  
After having invested so much time and energy into the project, we are now back to square one.  
A. Not ready for the consequence  
B. In the same city  
C. Fighting with each other  
D. Having to start all over again
15. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
Killing of one's own father  
A. Matricide  
B. Filicide  
C. Patricide  
D. Suicide
16. **The sentence given below has spelling errors. Select the sentence without spelling errors.**  
Though we read and hear a lot on green initiattive, we hardly tweak our routines to suite the larger picture.  
A. Though we read and hear a lot on green initiatives, we hardly tweak our routines to suit the larger picture.  
B. Throug we read and hear a lot on green initiatives, we hardly tweak our routines to suite the larger picture.  
C. Though we read and hear a lot on green initiatives, we hardly tweek our routines to suite the larger picture.  
D. Though we read and hear a lot on green inicitives, we hardly tweak our routines to suite the larger picture.
17. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word in the following sentence to fill in the blank.**  
The athlete's injury was a \_\_\_\_\_(defeat) for the team's chances of winning the championship.  
A. progression  
B. breakthrough  
C. stress  
D. setback

18. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.

- A. Parallel
- B. Recommend
- C. Irresistable
- D. Tomorrow

19. Select the **correctly** spelt word.

- A. Millennium
- B. Milennium
- C. Millenum
- D. Milenium

20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**

She proposed to write the life history of the famous poet.

- A. novel
- B. biography
- C. mythology
- D. autobiography

**Comprehension:**

**In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.**

Democracy is a form of government where the power lies \_\_\_\_\_ (1) the people. It is based on the principles of equality, freedom and the rule of law. In a democratic society, \_\_\_\_\_ (2) have the right to participate in the decision-making process, \_\_\_\_\_ (3) directly or through elected representatives. Democracy also allows for the \_\_\_\_\_ (4) of individual rights and liberties. While democracy is not without its challenges, such as the need to balance competing interests and the risk of \_\_\_\_\_ (5) movements, it remains one of the most widely embraced forms of government around the world.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**

- A. towards
- B. on
- C. by
- D. with

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**

- A. lawyers
- B. humans
- C. politicians
- D. citizens

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**

- A. either
- B. however
- C. neither
- D. also



24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**

- A. delimitation
- B. protection
- C. diversion
- D. proscription

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. marginal
- B. elitist
- C. populist
- D. negligible

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. **C) Adverse weather conditions impacting key industries.**

The passage attributes the slowdown in economic momentum partly to the heavy rains in the final month of the southwest monsoon season. This resulted in surplus precipitation for September, which affected demand and output for cement, electricity, and steel, as mentioned in the passage. Options A and D are incorrect because they describe sectors (coal and fertilizers) that did not experience a slowdown but actually showed growth. Option B is not supported by the passage.

2. **C) There was a sequential contraction in production across all eight sectors from the previous month.**

The passage specifically states that "Sequentially, production in fact contracted across all the eight sectors," indicating that compared to the previous month, there was a decline across the board. Option A is incorrect as it contradicts the overall theme of economic slowdown. Option B is incorrect because the passage says fertilizers registered a quickening in growth. Option D is incorrect as it is stated that coal output's year-on-year growth eased only slightly and posted just a 1.5% sequential contraction, which is not dramatic.

3. **B) The sector experienced a decline to an eight-month low, driven by weakened demand and slow new order growth.**

The passage explicitly states that the S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI indicated that sectoral growth slid to an eight-month low due to weakening in demand, particularly for consumer goods, with new orders rising at the slowest pace in a year. It does not mention an increase in growth or employment rate; rather, it notes that job creation is slow and that input cost inflation accelerated, which negates options A, C, and D.

4. **A) Addressing the slowing economic growth and controlling persistent inflation.**

The passage concludes by noting that policymakers need to address the issues of slowing growth and persistent inflation, which are the twin challenges mentioned. While business confidence and input cost inflation are concerns, they are not highlighted as the primary challenges for policymakers.

5. **D) Cautionary**

The tone of the passage can be described as cautionary. The author uses terms such as "palpable softening," "moderate growth remains a challenge," "concerns," and "worrying" to indicate a tone of caution regarding the current economic conditions and the challenges that lie ahead. The repeated references to slowdown in various sectors and the concern for future growth and inflation signal that the author is cautioning the reader about the state of the economy rather than expressing outright alarm or indifference.

6. **D) The dual challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation**

The main theme of the passage is the dual challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation affecting the economy. Throughout the passage, the author discusses various indicators such as the Index of Eight Core Industries, the S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index, and the slowing demand in consumer goods that together highlight a slowing economic momentum. Alongside this, there are mentions of persistent inflation, such as input cost inflation and the difficulties companies face in staffing, which highlight the continuous problem of inflation.

7. **A) QRSP**

Q: it starts by stating the main subject, the inauguration of the Atal Tunnel (Q)

R: then moves to describe the tunnel's significance and engineering prowess

S: The paragraph then provides historical context on when the idea of such a project was first proposed

P: finally details when the decision to construct the tunnel was taken

8. **B) QSRP**

Q: Sentence Q introduces the issue about the lack of clarity over farm laws and the effects it's having on certain farmers, setting the stage for the rest of the paragraph.

S: Sentence S then elaborates on the situation by describing the BJP-JJP government's decision and how it aligns with the timing of paddy procurement in Punjab, which continues the discussion initiated by Q.

R: Sentence R follows this up by describing another fallout of the issue - the Shiromani Akali Dal opting out of the government, thus increasing the tension around the topic introduced.

P: Finally, Sentence P concludes the paragraph by stating that the Congress government is considering legal options to challenge the aforementioned bills, suggesting possible future developments.

9. D) The cats के बदले 'The cat's' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर एक ही बिल्ली की बात की जा रही है और उसके खाने का कटोरा की बात हो रही है। इसलिए, 'The cat's' होगा। जैसे— The cat's food bowl was empty, so he meowed incessantly until his owner finally filled it with fresh kibble.

- 'The cat's' will be used instead of 'The cats' because the sentence refers to a single cat and its food bowl. Hence, the correct replacement is 'The cat's'. Like— The cat's food bowl was empty, so he meowed incessantly until his owner finally filled it with fresh kibble.

10. D) **Get your act together** (idiom) – Get organised and do things better संगठित होकर बेहतर कार्य करना।

11. D) **Nasty** (adjective) – Unpleasant or harmful अप्रिय

- **Nebulous** (adjective) – Vague or ill-defined अस्पष्ट
- **Natal** (adjective) – Relating to birth जन्म संबंधित

- **Negligible** (adjective) – So small or unimportant as to be not worth considering; insignificant **तुच्छ**
12. B) **fells'** के बदले 'fell' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह घटना पूरी हो चुकी है और Past Tense में दिखाना है। इसलिए, 'fell' का प्रयोग सही होगा; जैसे— "Look, he fell!"
- 'fell' will be used instead of 'fells' because the event has already happened and needs to be portrayed in Past Tense. Therefore, 'fell' would be the correct usage; Like— "Look, he fell!"
13. D) **'worse'** के बदले 'worst' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'ever' के साथ Superlative Degree का प्रयोग होता है। जैसे— It was the best movie I ever saw.
- '**worst**' will be used instead of 'worse' because with 'ever' we use the Superlative Degree; Like— It was the best movie I ever saw
14. D) **Back to square one** (idiom) – Having to start all over again **पुनः प्रारंभ से शुरू करना।**
15. C) **Patricide** (noun) – The act of killing one's own father **पिता की हत्या**
- **Matricide** (noun) – The act of killing one's own mother **माता की हत्या**
  - **Filicide** (noun) – The act of killing one's own child **अपने बच्चे की हत्या**
  - **Suicide** (noun) – The act of taking one's own life **आत्महत्या**
16. A) Though we read and hear a lot on green initiatives, we hardly tweak our routines to suit the larger picture  
Option B: "Throug" is a misspelling of "Though."  
Option C: "tweek" is a misspelling of "tweak," and "suite" is incorrectly used instead of "suit."  
Option D: "iniciatives" is a misspelling of "initiatives," and "suite" is incorrectly used instead of "suit."
17. D) **Defeat** (noun) – The action of being defeated, loss, failure, downfall. **हार**  
**Synonym: Setback** (noun) – A reversal or check in progress, a problem or difficulty that नाकामयाबी
- **Progression** (noun) – The process of developing or moving gradually towards a more advanced state. **प्रगति**
  - **Breakthrough** (noun) – A sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development. **सफलता**
  - **Stress** (noun) – A state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances. **तनाव**
18. C) The INCORRECTLY spelt word is option C 'Irresistable'. The correct spelling is 'Irresistible', अप्रतिरोध्य, अनिवार्य.
19. A) The correct spelling is '**Millennium** **हजार वर्षों की अवधि।**

20. B) **Biography** (noun) – An account of someone's life written by someone else. जीवनी

- **Novel** (noun) – A fictional prose narrative of book length. उपन्यास
- **Mythology** (noun) – A collection of myths, especially one belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition. पौराणिक कथा
- **Autobiography** (noun) – An account of a person's life written by that person. आत्मजीवनी

21. D) **With'** का use होगा क्योंकि "with" इस context में दिखाता है कि शक्ति लोगों के साथ है।

"Democracy is a form of government where the power lies with the people" इस sentence में mention किया गया है कि लोकतंत्र वह सरकार का रूप है जहां शक्ति लोगों के साथ है। इसलिए 'with' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Towards' का अर्थ है किसी की दिशा में, 'On' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ पर, और 'By' का अर्थ है द्वारा, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **With'** should be used because it indicates that the power is in association or possession of the people. The sentence "Democracy is a form of government where the power lies with the people" suggests that in a democratic system, the authority is vested in the citizens. Hence, 'with' is appropriate here. Whereas, 'Towards' suggests a direction, 'On' means atop something, and 'By' implies 'by means of', which aren't fitting in this context.

22. D) **Citizens'** का use होगा क्योंकि "citizens" का अर्थ होता है नागरिक। Sentence में mention किया

गया है कि democratic society में, लोगों को decision-making process में शामिल होने का अधिकार है, इसलिए 'citizens' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Lawyers' का अर्थ है वकील, 'Humans' का अर्थ है मानव, और 'Politicians' का अर्थ है राजनेता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Citizens'** should be used because it refers to the inhabitants of a nation or state who have rights and privileges therein. The sentence mentions that in a democratic society, people have the right to participate in the decision-making process. Hence, 'citizens' is apt here. Whereas, 'Lawyers' refers to legal professionals, 'Humans' is a general term referring to mankind, and 'Politicians' refers to individuals involved in politics, which don't fit in this context.

23. A) **Either'** का use होगा क्योंकि "either" का अर्थ होता है किसी दो विकल्पों में से कोई एक।

Sentence में बताया गया है कि लोग decision-making process में भाग ले सकते हैं, या तो सीधे या उनके चुने गए प्रतिनिधियों के माध्यम से, इसलिए 'either' यहाँ सही है। 'However' का अर्थ है हालांकि, 'Neither' का अर्थ है दोनों में से कोई भी नहीं, और 'Also' का अर्थ है भी, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Either'** should be used because it refers to one of two options. The sentence indicates that people can participate in the decision-making process, either directly or through

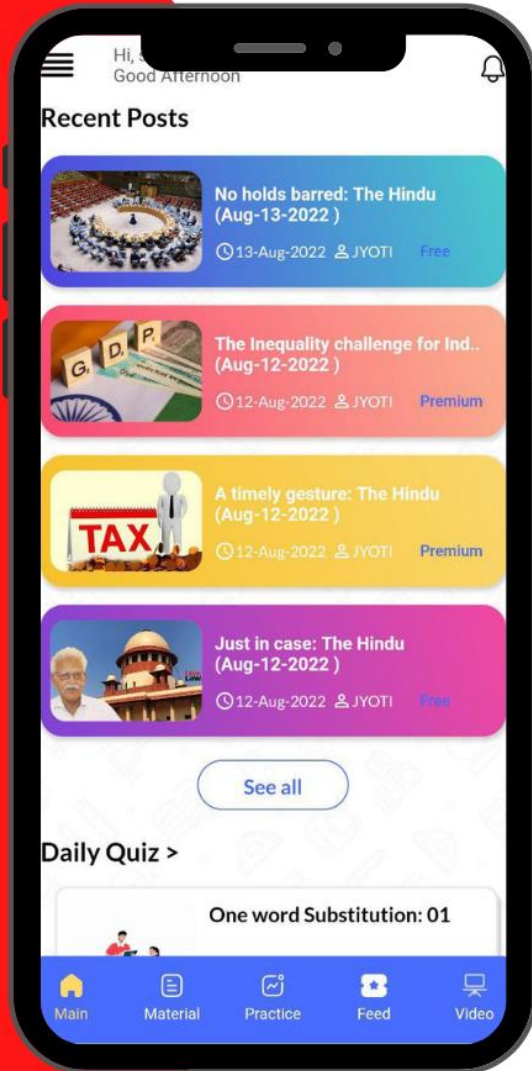
their elected representatives, making 'either' the right choice. 'However' means although, 'Neither' means none of the two, and 'Also' means in addition to, which don't fit in this context.

24. B) '**Protection**' का use होगा क्योंकि "protection" का अर्थ होता है सुरक्षा या रक्षा। Sentence में इससे पहले mention किया गया है कि लोगों को decision-making process में शामिल होने का अधिकार है। इस context में यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि व्यक्तिगत अधिकार और स्वतंत्रता की सुरक्षा हो। इसलिए 'protection' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Delimitation' का अर्थ है सीमा निर्धारित करना, 'Diversion' का अर्थ है विचलन, और 'Proscription' का अर्थ है प्रतिषेध, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Protection**' should be used because it refers to the safeguarding or defense of something. The previous part of the sentence discusses people's right to be involved in the decision-making process. This context suggests that the protection of individual rights and freedoms is ensured. Hence, 'protection' fits well here. Whereas, 'Delimitation' means determining boundaries, 'Diversion' means deviation, and 'Proscription' means prohibition, which don't fit in this context.

25. C) '**Populist**' का use होगा क्योंकि "populist" का अर्थ होता है जन-संवेदनशील या जनता की भावनाओं और इच्छाओं के प्रति संवेदनशील। Democracy में कभी-कभी जन-संवेदनशील आंदोलन या populist movements जो अधिकांश जनता की भावनाओं को प्रकट करते हैं, उनसे चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न होती हैं। इसलिए 'populist' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Marginal' का अर्थ होता है हाथ के किनारे वाला, 'Elitist' का अर्थ है उच्च वर्ग का, और 'Negligible' का अर्थ है नगण्य या तुच्छ, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Populist**' should be used because it refers to being sensitive to or aligned with the sentiments and desires of the general public. In democracies, sometimes there are challenges arising from populist movements, which represent the majority's sentiments. Therefore, 'populist' fits here. Whereas, 'Marginal' means peripheral, 'Elitist' implies superior or privileged class, and 'Negligible' means insignificant or trifling, which don't fit in this context.



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