

Falling behind: On Monetary Policy Committee and inflation

Dissonance in RBI's **inflation** messaging **betrays** risks in its policy **posture**

The Monetary Policy Committee's **decision** to hold **benchmark interest rates** level, while raising its **forecast** for full-year GDP growth by 50 **basis points** and **flagging** food price shocks-induced **volatility** in inflation, **is replete** with the risk of **policymakers** falling behind the curve on **anchoring inflation expectations**. **Notably**, after observing that "**uncertainties** in food prices along with unfavourable **base effects are** likely to **lead to**" **headline inflation quickening** in November-December, and that "**recurring** food price shocks are **impeding** the ongoing **disinflation** process", the MPC has rather surprisingly opted to keep the RBI's repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for a fifth **straight** bi-monthly meeting. To be sure, **retail inflation** has **moderated** since the MPC last met in early October, with the headline **reading softening** by almost two percentage points, from August's 6.83% to 4.87% in October. But, by the MPC's own **reckoning**, that **moderation** may be **fleeting**, as price gains **accelerate** yet again in November and December, and with **volatility** in oil prices and financial markets, amid **heightened** global uncertainty, there are added risks to the **outlook** on prices. The RBI's latest 'Households' Inflation Expectations Survey', **undertaken** in November, reveals that most households expect faster inflation in the three-months- ahead and one-year-ahead time horizons, and at median levels of 9.1% and 10.1%, respectively, **unequivocally underlining** the fact that price gain expectations are still far from **durably anchored**.

The **dissonance** in messaging from the central bank **is exemplified** in the MPC's decision to upgrade its **projection** for real GDP growth in the **fiscal year** ending in March 2024 to 7%, from 6.5% as recently as in October. For this, it **cites robust** investment, besides continued **strengthening** in manufacturing, **buoyancy** in construction and a **gradual** rural recovery that it sees helping 'brighten the prospects of household consumption'. If the RBI's **cumulative 250 basis points** increase in the benchmark interest rate since May 2022 through to February 2023 and the subsequent **retention** of the 6.5% rate have not **damped** the growth **impulses barring** consumption, then it would indicate that consumption is still struggling to **gain traction** largely because, as Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra observed at the MPC's last meeting, "people are not increasing **discretionary spending** in view of high inflation". This seems to be **borne out** in the RBI's November round of its bi-monthly 'Consumer Confidence Survey', which showed consumers retained negative **sentiments** on both current and future price conditions. With policymakers only too well aware that **sans** price stability, as Mr. Patra noted, "the **benefits** of expanding GDP and employment **will** be **frittered away** by the **erosion** of purchasing power", the MPC **has its task cut out**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** (noun) – A group of policymakers responsible for setting interest rates and implementing monetary policy to achieve macroeconomic objectives like price stability and economic growth. मौद्रिक नीति समिति
2. **Dissonance** (noun) – Discord, incongruity, disharmony, conflict, clash विसंगति
3. **Inflation** (noun) – Price rise, cost escalation, economic inflation, monetary devaluation, value diminution मूल्य वृद्धि
4. **Betray** (verb) – Reveal, expose, disclose, unveil, unmask प्रकट करना
5. **Posture** (noun) – Stance, position, attitude, approach, stand रुख
6. **Benchmark Interest Rate** (noun) – It include repo rate, MSF rate, CRR rate, Bank rate etc.
7. **Forecast** (noun) – Prediction, projection, estimation, anticipation, outlook भविष्यवाणी
8. **Basis Point** (noun) – 100 basis point = 1%
9. **Flagging** (adjective) – Weakening, diminishing, declining, waning, fading घटती हुई
10. **Volatility** (noun) – Instability, unpredictability, variability, fluctuation, changeability अस्थिरता
11. **Replete** (with) (adjective) – Filled, abundant, loaded, brimming, teeming से भरपूर
12. **Policymaker** (noun) – A person responsible for forming policies, especially in government. नीति निर्माता
13. **Anchor** (verb) – Stabilize, secure, fix, establish, root स्थिर करना
14. **Inflation Expectation** (noun) – The anticipation of future inflation rates.
15. **Notably** (adverb) – Particularly, especially, significantly, remarkably, outstandingly विशेष रूप से
16. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Doubt, unpredictability, ambiguity, indecision, vagueness अनिश्चितता
17. **Base Effect** (noun) – The impact of past data on the comparison of current statistics with those of the same period in the previous year.
18. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, give rise to, provoke वजह बनना
19. **Headline Inflation** (noun) – The total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices.
20. **Quicken** (verb) – Hasten, accelerate, speed up, expedite, increase तेज करना

21. **Recurring** (adjective) – Repeated, periodic, frequent, habitual, cyclic बार-बार
22. **Impede** (verb) – Hinder, obstruct, block, hamper, thwart बाधा डालना
23. **Disinflation** (noun) – A decrease in the rate of inflation. मुद्रास्फीति की दर में कमी।
24. **Straight** (adjective) – Consecutive, unbroken, continuous, successive, uninterrupted लगातार
25. **Retail Inflation** (noun) – Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index, reflecting the annual percentage change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a basket of goods and services.
26. **Moderate** (verb) – Reduce, lessen, decrease, lower, diminish कम करना
27. **Reading** (noun) – Measurement, value, figure, result, assessment माप
28. **Soften** (verb) – Ease, alleviate, reduce, relax, lessen कम करना
29. **Reckoning** (noun) – Calculation, estimation, judgement, assessment, evaluation आकलन
30. **Moderation** (noun) – Restraint, control, temperance, balance, mitigation संयम
31. **Fleeting** (adjective) – Transitory, short-lived, brief, momentary, ephemeral क्षणिक
32. **Accelerate** (verb) – Speed up, hasten, quicken, expedite, rush तेजी लाना
33. **Volatility** (noun) – Instability, unpredictability, variability, fluctuation, changeability अस्थिरता
34. **Heighten** (verb) – Increase, intensify, amplify, enhance, escalate बढ़ाना
35. **Outlook** (noun) – Perspective, view, forecast, prognosis, projection दृष्टिकोण
36. **Undertake** (verb) – Embark on, engage in, take on, start, commence करना
37. **Unequivocally** (adverb) – Clearly, unambiguously, plainly, distinctly, categorically स्पष्ट रूप से
38. **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accentuate जोर देना
39. **Durably** (adverb) – Lastingly, enduringly, permanently, stably, steadfastly स्थायी रूप से
40. **Anchored** (adjective) – Secured, stabilized, fixed, rooted, moored स्थिर
41. **Exemplify** (verb) – Illustrate, demonstrate, represent, epitomize, typify उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करना
42. **Projection** (noun) – Estimate, forecast, prediction, anticipation, calculation अनुमान

43. **Fiscal Year** (noun) – It start from 1 April and ends on 31st March
44. **Cite** (verb) – Refer to, mention, quote, allude to, point out हवाला देना
45. **Robust** (adjective) – Strong, sturdy, resilient, durable, tough मजबूत
46. **Strengthen** (verb) – Fortify, reinforce, bolster, enhance, intensify मजबूत करना
47. **Buoyancy** (noun) – Resilience, uplift, bounce, vigor, liveliness उत्साह
48. **Gradual** (adjective) – Incremental, steady, progressive, phased, step-by-step क्रमिक
49. **Cumulative** (adjective) – Accumulative, total, aggregate, collective, combined संचयी
50. **Retention** (noun) – Holding, maintaining, keeping, preservation, conservation बनाए रखना
51. **Damp** (verb) – Diminish, decrease, reduce, lessen, dampen कम करना
52. **Impulse** (noun) – Urge, drive, motivation, impetus, incentive प्रेरणा
53. **Barring** (preposition) – Except for, excluding, not including, save for, apart from छोड़कर
54. **Gain Traction** (phrase) – Become popular, get established, gain momentum, catch on, become accepted लोकप्रिय होना
55. **Discretionary** (adjective) – Optional, elective, voluntary, at one's discretion, non-compulsory विवेकाधीन
56. **Discretionary Spending** (noun) – Non-essential expenditure, elective spending, optional outlay, voluntary expense, non-compulsory spending विवेकाधीन खर्च
57. **Bear Out** (phrasal verb) – Confirm, substantiate, verify, validate, corroborate पुष्टि करना
58. **Sentiment** (noun) – Feeling, opinion, attitude, thought, view भावना
59. **Sans** (preposition) – Without, lacking, devoid of, minus, absent बिना
60. **Fritter Away** (phrasal verb) – Waste, squander, dissipate, misuse, spend frivolously व्यर्थ गवाना
61. **Erosion** (noun) – Wearing away, deterioration, degradation, decline, corrosion क्षरण
62. **Have One's Task Cut Out** (phrase) – Have a clearly defined task or challenge. मुश्किल कार्य का सामना करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) chose to maintain the benchmark interest rates, despite raising its forecast for full-year GDP growth by 50 basis points.
2. The MPC acknowledges the volatility in inflation, particularly due to food price shocks.
3. Despite observing the likelihood of accelerating headline inflation in November-December, the MPC surprisingly kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
4. Retail inflation has moderated since the last MPC meeting in early October, dropping from 6.83% in August to 4.87% in October.
5. The MPC anticipates that this moderation in inflation may be temporary, with price gains expected to accelerate again in the latter part of the year.
6. There are heightened risks to price stability due to volatile oil prices and financial markets, amidst global uncertainties.
7. The RBI's 'Households' Inflation Expectations Survey' indicates that households expect higher inflation in the short-term and medium-term, with median levels of 9.1% and 10.1% respectively.
8. The central bank's messaging appears inconsistent, especially with the MPC upgrading its real GDP growth projection for fiscal year 2023 to 7%, up from 6.5%.
9. The RBI cites robust investment, manufacturing strength, construction buoyancy, and a gradual rural recovery as reasons for the revised GDP forecast.
10. Despite the RBI's 250 basis points increase in interest rates since May 2022, consumption is still struggling, likely due to high inflation impacting discretionary spending.
11. The RBI's 'Consumer Confidence Survey' shows consumers have negative sentiments about current and future price conditions.
12. Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra emphasizes that without price stability, benefits of GDP growth and employment could be undermined by the erosion of purchasing power.
13. The MPC's policy posture seems to risk falling behind in effectively anchoring inflation expectations.
14. There is a disconnect between the RBI's actions to maintain interest rates and the observed economic indicators that suggest a need for more proactive measures.
15. Policymakers face the challenge of balancing growth and inflation, with the current approach raising concerns about the effectiveness of their strategies in controlling inflation.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Analytical
 - C. Critical
 - D. Indifferent
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The robust growth of the Indian economy
 - B. The critical analysis of the MPC's decision on interest rates amid inflation risks
 - C. The improvement in consumer confidence and spending
 - D. The stability and growth of global financial markets
3. **Considering the MPC's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged despite the forecast of increasing inflation, what can be inferred about the potential implications of this policy stance?**
 - A. It could lead to a stable economic environment as consistent interest rates may boost investor confidence.
 - B. It may result in falling behind the curve in controlling inflation, risking the unanchoring of inflation expectations.
 - C. The unchanged repo rate will likely lead to a significant decrease in retail inflation in the short term.
 - D. This approach will guarantee a quick and effective response to any sudden changes in the global financial market.
4. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the trend of inflation and public perception in the coming months?**
 - A. Inflation is expected to stabilize at lower levels, aligning with public expectations.
 - B. Public perception is optimistic, expecting a decrease in inflation despite economic indicators.
 - C. There is a likelihood of accelerating inflation, which is also reflected in the rising inflation expectations among households.
 - D. Despite rising inflation, public expectations are inclined towards a deflationary trend.
5. **How does the RBI's decision to upgrade its GDP growth projection relate to the current economic conditions as described in the passage?**
 - A. The upgrade reflects a comprehensive recovery across all sectors, signaling a strong economic turnaround.
 - B. It indicates a contrast between robust investment, manufacturing, and construction sectors, and the lagging consumer consumption due to high inflation.
 - C. The projection upgrade is a strategic move to boost consumer confidence and discretionary spending in the economy.
 - D. It represents an overestimation of economic growth, ignoring the underlying issues of high inflation and consumer sentiment.
6. **What can be inferred about the RBI's approach to tackling inflation and its impact on consumer spending?**

- A. The RBI's measures have been effective in controlling inflation, leading to an increase in consumer spending.
- B. Despite the RBI's efforts to control inflation through interest rate hikes, consumer spending has not picked up due to ongoing inflation concerns.
- C. The RBI is primarily focused on boosting GDP growth, rather than controlling inflation or improving consumer sentiment.
- D. The RBI has underestimated the impact of inflation on consumer spending and needs to revise its policies.
7. **What is a synonym for the word "dissonance" as used in the passage?**
- A. Harmony
- B. Accord
- C. Discrepancy
- D. Consonance
8. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the following sentence.**
- The health-care system is in transition at those moment.
- A. at that moments
- B. at the moment
- C. at a moments
- D. at these moment
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- A. groups such as migrants and
- B. collecting data on vulnerable population
- C. persons with disabilities is crucial
- D. understanding who are being left behind
- E. in identifying the challenges they face and
- A. EADCB
- B. CABED
- C. BACED
- D. DACBE
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the homonym in the context of the following sentence to fill in the blank.**
- They do not say anything but stalk furiously out of the room.
- 'Stalk' here means _____.
- A. the stem or main axis of a plant
- B. to walk in an angry or proud way
- C. to go through an area in search of prey
- D. recur constantly and spontaneously
11. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.

The Tokyo Games accelerated energy policies in Japan, **demonstrating** how they could make steps towards a low-carbon economy by powering the athletes' village with hydrogen from clean, green sources.

- A. inspiring
- B. exploring
- C. collating
- D. Hiding

12. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

The guilty are punished by the judge.

- A. The judge is punishing the guilty.
- B. The judge punishes the guilty.
- C. The judge has been punishing the guilty.
- D. The judge has punished the guilty.

13. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

Can you please / open a door? / I can hear / somebody knocking.

- A. Can you please
- B. somebody knocking
- C. I can hear
- D. open a door

14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

She suffered an emotional _____ after the death of her husband in a road accident.

- A. turbulense
- B. terbulense
- C. toorbulence
- D. Turbulence

15. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

- A. although many scholars believe that
- B. no records of such a commission from Francesco exist,
- C. the painting depicts Lisa Gherardini, wife of the Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo,
- D. and the sitter has never been conclusively identified

- A. D, C, B, A
- B. C, A, B, D
- C. B, D, A, C
- D. A, C, B, D

16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Hysterical

- A. Controlled
- B. Resolute
- C. Manful

- D. Shy
17. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined segment in the following sentence.**
The child played the video game as much as he wanted to.
- A. To his heart's content
B. To gild the pill
C. To kick the bucket
D. To assume airs
18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
We hope that we shall win the match against Australia
- A. It is hoped that the match against Australia shall be won by us.
B. It is expected that the match against Australia should be won by us.
C. It is hoped that the match against Australia was won by us.
D. It is sure that the match against Australia was won by us.
19. **Select the appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word to fill in the blank.**
The flow of the river is very rapid now. Let's go in when it's a little _____.
- A. fast
B. quick
C. delayed
D. Slow
20. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word 'Flung' from the given sentence.**
The entrepreneur's innovative strategies propelled his startup to success.
- A. Strategies
B. Innovative
C. Success
D. Propelled

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.

Primitive cultures are those that exist in societies that have not yet developed advanced technology or complex social _____1_____. These cultures are often characterized by their close relationship with the natural world. Despite being considered 'primitive', these cultures have a rich history and a unique way of life that is _____2_____ studying and preserving. These cultures often have a deep understanding of the environment and its cycles, and they have developed intricate systems of knowledge and belief that are closely tied to nature. For example, indigenous cultures in the Amazon rainforest have an _____3_____ knowledge of the medicinal properties of plants and the cycles of the seasons, which they use to sustain themselves and their communities. Another important aspect is that these cultures often have complex systems of kinship and social hierarchy. Despite the many challenges that primitive cultures face, including the _____4_____ of modern societies and environmental degradation, these cultures have an important role to play in our understanding of the human experience. They offer a different _____5_____ on the world and its complexities, and their traditions and knowledge have the potential to inform and enrich our modern lives.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
- A. borders
 - B. outlines
 - C. structures
 - D. Configurations
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
- A. important
 - B. insignificant
 - C. worth
 - D. Trivial
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. acquired
 - B. intimate
 - C. estimated
 - D. Gained
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. migration
 - B. possession
 - C. encroachment
 - D. Estimation
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**
- A. conclusion
 - B. perspective
 - C. blame
 - D. biasness

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) Critical

The tone of the passage is critical. It critiques the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision to hold benchmark interest rates steady despite rising inflation expectations and potential risks. The use of terms like "dissonance in messaging," "surprisingly opted," and highlighting the risks of policy posture imply a critical evaluation of the RBI's decisions and the MPC's approach.

2. B) The critical analysis of the MPC's decision on interest rates amid inflation risks

The main theme of the passage is a critical analysis of the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to maintain the current interest rates despite the risks posed by inflation and volatility in prices. The passage focuses on the potential disconnect between the RBI's policy actions and the evolving economic conditions, particularly regarding inflation and growth forecasts. This theme is central throughout the passage, as evidenced by the detailed discussion of inflation expectations, the MPC's decisions, and their implications for the economy.

3. B) It may result in falling behind the curve in controlling inflation, risking the unanchoring of inflation expectations.

The passage suggests that despite the forecast of higher inflation and the risks posed by food price shocks and global uncertainties, the MPC's decision to maintain the repo rate could result in delayed responses to inflationary pressures. This can potentially lead to difficulties in anchoring inflation expectations, as indicated by the 'Households' Inflation Expectations Survey'.

4. C) There is a likelihood of accelerating inflation, which is also reflected in the rising inflation expectations among households.

The passage indicates that both the MPC and the public (as per the 'Households' Inflation Expectations Survey') expect an increase in inflation in the near future. This is inferred from the MPC's observation of potential quickening of headline inflation and the survey results showing households expecting faster inflation in the coming time horizons.

5. B) It indicates a contrast between robust investment, manufacturing, and construction sectors, and the lagging consumer consumption due to high inflation.

The passage describes a scenario where despite an increase in the GDP growth projection, consumer consumption remains low due to high inflation. This indicates a disparity between the growing sectors like investment, manufacturing, and construction, and the stagnation in consumer spending, which is struggling due to inflationary pressures

6. B) Despite the RBI's efforts to control inflation through interest rate hikes, consumer spending has not picked up due to ongoing inflation concerns.

The passage indicates that the RBI has raised interest rates to tackle inflation. However, it also mentions that consumers retain negative sentiments regarding price conditions and are not increasing discretionary spending due to high inflation. This suggests that while the RBI has taken steps to control inflation, these measures have not yet resulted in a significant boost in consumer spending.

7. **C) Discrepancy**

In the passage, "dissonance" is used to describe a lack of agreement or consistency, particularly in the messaging from the central bank. "Discrepancy," which means a lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts, is a synonym that fits this context.

8. B) 'at those moment' के बदले 'at the moment' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही वाक्य-रचना के अनुसार उपयुक्त माना जाता है; जैसे— I am busy at the moment.

- 'at the moment' will be used instead of 'at those moment' because it is considered appropriate according to correct sentence construction; Like— I am busy at the moment.

9. **C) BACED**

Collecting data on vulnerable population groups such as migrants and persons with disabilities is crucial in identifying the challenges they face and understanding who are being left behind

10. B) 'Stalk' का प्रयोग यहाँ "to walk in an angry or proud way" के अर्थ में किया गया है क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, वाक्य में लोगों का गुस्से में या अहंकार में कमरे से बाहर जाने का वर्णन किया गया है। "They do not say anything but stalk furiously out of the room" में 'stalk' शब्द के माध्यम से उनकी गुस्से या अहंकार में चलने की बात कही गई है। इसलिए, विकल्प B "to walk in an angry or proud way" सबसे उपयुक्त होगा।

- 'Stalk' here means "to walk in an angry or proud way" because in the entire context, the sentence is describing people walking out of the room in anger or pride. Through "They do not say anything but stalk furiously out of the room," it conveys that they are walking in an angry or proud manner. Thus, option B "to walk in an angry or proud way" would be the most appropriate choice.

11. D) **Demonstrating** (verb) – To show clearly, to exhibit, to display, to illustrate. **दिखाना**

Antonym: Hiding (verb) – To keep out of sight, to conceal, to cover up, to keep secret. **छुपाना**

- **Inspiring** (verb) – To motivate, encourage, stimulate, or arouse a feeling or thought. प्रेरित करना
- **Exploring** (verb) – To examine or investigate, to travel through for the purpose of discovery. तलाश करना
- **Collating** (verb) – To collect, compare and arrange in order, especially of texts. मिलान करना

12. B) The judge punishes the guilty.

13. D) 'open a door' के बदले 'the door' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां पर विशेष द्वार की बात की जा रही है जिससे कोई ध्वनि सुनाई दे रही है।
- 'the door' will be used instead of 'open a door' because we are referring to a specific door from which the sound is coming.
14. D) 'Turbulence' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह option एक भावनात्मक अस्थिरता या उतार-चढ़ाव को दर्शाने के लिए सही है। "emotional ____ after the death of her husband in a road accident" इस से स्पष्ट होता है कि वह महिला अपने पति की मौत के बाद भावनात्मक अस्थिरता में है। इसलिए, "Turbulence" सबसे सही option होगा।
- 'Turbulence' should be used because it is the correct word to denote emotional instability or upheaval. "emotional ____ after the death of her husband in a road accident" makes it clear that the woman is in emotional distress following her husband's death. Thus, "Turbulence" would be the most appropriate choice.
15. D) **A, C, B, D**
Although many scholars believe that the painting depicts Lisa Gherardini, wife of the Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo, no records of such a commission from Francesco exist, and the sitter has never been conclusively identified
16. A) **Hysterical** (adjective) – Extremely emotional, frantic, uncontrollable, overwrought. अत्यंत उत्तेजित
Antonym: **Controlled** (adjective) – Restrained, regulated, composed, calm. नियंत्रित
- **Resolute** (adjective) – Determined, steadfast, unswerving, firm in purpose. दृढ़ निश्चय
 - **Manful** (adjective) – Showing qualities traditionally associated with men, especially strength or courage. पुरुषार्थी
 - **Shy** (adjective) – Lacking confidence, bashful, reserved, hesitant. शरमीला
17. A) **To his heart's content** (idiom) – As much as one wants or until one is satisfied पूरी तरह से संतुष्ट
- **To gild the pill** (idiom) - To make an unpleasant or bitter situation seem more attractive or more palatable. सख्त हालात को आकर्षक बनाना।
 - **To kick the bucket** (idiom) - A colloquial term used to refer to someone's death. मौत होना ।
 - **To assume airs** (idiom) - To pretend to be more important or grander than is actually the case; to adopt a haughty or arrogant manner. अहम दिखाना।
18. A) It is hoped that the match against Australia shall be won by us.
19. D) **Rapid** (adjective) – Moving or flowing fast, quick, speedy. तेज़

Antonym: Slow (adjective) – Not moving quickly, taking a long time, leisurely. धीमा

- **Fast** (adjective) – Moving or capable of moving at high speed, quick, rapid. तेज़
- **Quick** (adjective) – Moving fast or doing something in a short time, rapid. तेज़
- **Delayed** (adjective) – Made late or postponed, behind time. विलंबित

Therefore, the most appropriate antonym to fill in the blank is "Slow".

20. D) **Flung** (verb) – Thrown, hurled, tossed, cast. फेंका गया

Synonym: **Propelled** (verb) – To drive or push something forward, to send forth, thrust, launch.

फेंकना

- **Strategies** (noun) – A plan, tactic, or technique designed to achieve a particular goal. रणनीति
- **Innovative** (adjective) – Featuring new methods or ideas, inventive, pioneering. अभिनव
- **Success** (noun) – The accomplishment of a goal or purpose, triumph, victory. सफलता

21. C) '**Structures**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "structures" का अर्थ होता है सामाजिक ढाँचे या प्रणालियाँ जिसे समाज में विकसित किया जाता है। 'Borders' का अर्थ है सीमा, 'Outlines' का अर्थ है रूपरेखा, और 'Configurations' का अर्थ है विन्यास या आकार, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Structures**' should be used because it refers to social frameworks or systems developed in societies. Whereas, 'Borders' means boundaries, 'Outlines' means a general shape or form, and 'Configurations' implies a particular arrangement or pattern, which don't fit in this context.

22. C) '**Worth**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "worth" का अर्थ होता है मूल्य या महत्व। जबकि

'Important' का अर्थ है महत्वपूर्ण, 'Insignificant' का अर्थ है अमहत्वपूर्ण, और 'Trivial' का अर्थ है तुच्छ, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Worth**' should be used because it means value or significance. Whereas, 'Important' means of great significance, 'Insignificant' means of no importance, and 'Trivial' means of little value or importance, which don't fit in this context.

23. B) '**Intimate**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "intimate" का अर्थ होता है बहुत निकटता वाला या गहरा सम्बन्ध। इस संदर्भ में, वे अमेज़न वर्षा वन की मौलिक संस्कृतियों की वाणी के औषधीय गुण और ऋतुओं के चक्र के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं, इसलिए "intimate" सबसे उचित शब्द है जो उनके ज्ञान की गहराई को दर्शाता है। जबकि 'Acquired' का अर्थ होता है प्राप्त करना,

'Estimated' का अर्थ है अनुमान लगाना, और 'Gained' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

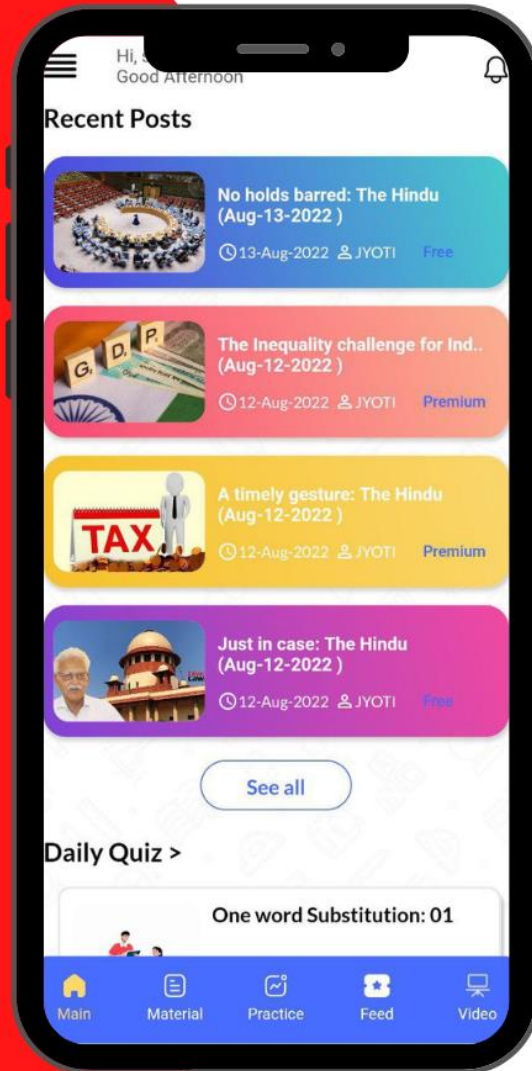
- '**Intimate**' should be used because it means having a deep or close connection. In this context, they are talking about the indigenous cultures of the Amazon rainforest's knowledge of medicinal properties and cycles of the seasons, so "intimate" is the most fitting word that depicts the depth of their knowledge. Whereas, 'Acquired' means to have gotten, 'Estimated' means to make a guess, and 'Gained' implies achieving or obtaining, which don't fit in this context.

24. C) '**Encroachment**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "encroachment" का अर्थ होता है धीरे-धीरे अधिग्रहण करना या अन्य किसी के अधिकार में प्रवेश करना। जबकि 'Migration' का अर्थ है प्रवास, 'Possession' का अर्थ है अधिकार या स्वामित्व, और 'Estimation' का अर्थ है अनुमान, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Encroachment**' should be used because it means the gradual and unauthorized intrusion or taking over someone else's rights or territory. Whereas, 'Migration' means movement, 'Possession' implies ownership or control, and 'Estimation' implies a guess or approximation, which don't fit in this context.

25. B) '**Perspective**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "perspective" का अर्थ होता है दृष्टिकोण या किसी विषय या स्थिति को देखने का तरीका। जबकि 'Conclusion' का अर्थ है निष्कर्ष पहुंचाना, 'Blame' का अर्थ है दोष देना, और 'Biasness' का अर्थ है पक्षपात होना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Perspective**' should be used because it means a viewpoint or a way to look at a subject or situation. Whereas, 'Conclusion' implies reaching an end or judgement, 'Blame' means to assign fault, and 'Biasness' implies partiality, which don't fit in this context.



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