

Good growth, low demand: On the NSO projection

Government spending seems to be **propping up** growth

The first advance **estimates** of national income for the current **fiscal year present** a picture of an economy **on steroids** — of government spending. While the NSO has made bold to **project real GDP** growth **marginally quickening** to a 7.3% **pace**, from 2022-23's 7.2%, **scrutiny** of sectoral output figures that together form the **gross value added**, and the demand data **reflected** in expenditure numbers **posit** an economy still searching for **durable drivers** of consumption-led growth. While overall GVA growth is seen slowing to 6.9%, from the **preceding** fiscal's 7%, **the agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing sector** — the **bedrock** of the rural economy, one of the largest providers of work and the second-largest generator of economic value outside the services economy — **will** see output **expanding** by 1.8%, the slowest in eight years and less than half of 2022-23's 4% pace. And even this pace of growth may be **optimistic given** the estimated shortfall in kharif output and **lag** in rabi **sowing**, particularly in paddy and pulses. Equally, the second-largest component of the services economy, the **omnibus** trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting sector — also a large provider of jobs — is estimated to **witness** more than a **halving** in the pace of growth — to 6.3%, from 14% last fiscal. Here too, the estimates reflect the trend **evident** in the NSO's November 30 release of second-quarter GDP estimates, and **underscore** the **underlying** loss of **momentum** in the post-pandemic **rebound** in services.

On the demand side, private final consumption **expenditure** — the largest component of GDP with a share that till two **decades** ago exceeded 60% — **is** projected to **log** its slowest non-pandemic year expansion in more than 20 years. At 4.4%, private consumption spending growth is estimated to have been at its lowest **ebb** since the pandemic and **accompanying** lockdowns caused spending to **contract** by more than 5% in 2020-21, and just over half of 2022-23's 7.5% pace. With the rural economy struggling under the impact of the monsoon **vagaries** and the resultant weakness in farm output, **demand** for producers of a range of goods from soaps and detergents to packaged foods and two-wheelers **is** yet to regain any kind of **vigour** in the **hinterland**. **Gross fixed capital formation**, which includes government capital spending, **remains** the main bright spot and driver of momentum. The NSO **pegs** GFCF growing 10.3% to reach a record 34.9% share of GDP this fiscal. With the general election just ahead, **policymakers** face an **unenviable** choice — keep the **spending spigot** fully open to prop up growth at the risk of **fiscal slippage**, or **tighten the purse strings** and risk further loss of momentum.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Bright spot** (noun) – A good part of something that is otherwise entirely bad or unpleasant.
- **Driver** (noun) – Important Factor.

Vocabulary

1. **Projection** (noun) – Forecast, prediction, estimate, anticipation, outlook पूर्वानुमान
2. **Government spending** (noun) – spending by the public sector on goods and services such as education, health care and defence सरकारी खर्च
3. **Prop up** (phrasal verb) – Support, sustain, bolster, uphold, maintain सहारा देना
4. **Fiscal year** (noun) – It refers to period belongs to 1 April to 31 March वित्तीय वर्ष
5. **On steroids** (phrase) – Intensified, enhanced, supercharged, amplified, boosted तीव्र गति से
6. **Project** (verb) – Foretell, predict, forecast, anticipate, envision अनुमान लगाना
7. **Real GDP** (noun) – a way of measuring a nation's output in terms of the value of its good and services, its investments, government spendings and exports with the prices of the base year.
8. **Marginally** (adverb) – Slightly, minimally, just, barely, narrowly मामूली रूप से
9. **Quickening** (noun) – Acceleration, hastening, speeding up, increase in speed, expediting तेजी
10. **Pace** (noun) – Speed, rate, tempo, velocity, rhythm गति
11. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Examination, inspection, analysis, review, assessment जांच
12. **Gross value added** (noun) – the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy
13. **Reflect** (verb) – Indicate, show, reveal, demonstrate, exhibit संकेत करना
14. **Posit** (verb) – Assume, propose, suggest, put forward, hypothesize प्रस्तावित करना, पेश करना
15. **Durable** (adjective) – Long-lasting, enduring, permanent, stable, resilient स्थायी
16. **Driver** (noun) – Factor
17. **Preceding** (adjective) – Previous, prior, former, earlier, antecedent पूर्ववर्ती
18. **Bedrock** (noun) – basis, base, foundation, root आधार
19. **Expand** (verb) – Increase, enlarge, extend, grow, develop विस्तार करना
20. **Optimistic** (adjective) – Hopeful, positive, confident, sanguine, upbeat आशावादी
21. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, in view of, with regard to, in light of देखते हुए

22. **Sowing** (noun) – Planting, seed planting, cultivation, seeding, germination बुआई
23. **Omnibus** (adjective) – Comprehensive, all-inclusive, all-encompassing, broad, collective सार्वत्रिक
24. **Witness** (verb) – Observe, see, watch देखना
25. **Halving** (noun) – Division in half, bisecting, splitting, cutting in two, dividing आधा करना
26. **Evident** (adjective) – Obvious, clear, apparent, manifest, noticeable स्पष्ट
27. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underline, accentuate, stress जोर देना
28. **Underlying** (adjective) – Inherent, fundamental, basic, primary, integral आधारभूत
29. **Momentum** (noun) – Impetus, force, energy, power, thrust गति
30. **Rebound** (noun) – Recovery, bounce back, return, resurgence, comeback पलटाव
31. **Decade** (noun) – Period of Ten years दशक
32. **Log** (verb) – Record, register, enter, note, document दर्ज करना
33. **Ebb** (verb) – Decline, recede, wane, diminish, decrease घटना
34. **Accompanying** (adjective) – Associated, concomitant, concurrent, coexistent, attendant साथ में आना
35. **Contract** (verb) – Reduce, decrease, shrink, lessen, diminish कम होना
36. **Vagary** (noun) – Unpredictable changes, fluctuations, variances, quirks, idiosyncrasies अनिश्चितताएँ
37. **Vigour** (noun) – Energy, vitality, strength, forcefulness, power ऊर्जा
38. **Hinterland** (noun) – Backcountry, rural area, outskirts, remote area, periphery पिछड़ा क्षेत्र
39. **Gross fixed capital formation** (noun) – As per RBI, Gross capital formation refers to the 'aggregate of gross additions to fixed assets (that is fixed capital formation) plus change in stocks during the counting period.' Fixed asset refers to the construction, machinery and equipment.
40. **Peg** (verb) – Fix, set, secure, stabilize, anchor निर्धारित करना
41. **Policymaker** (noun) – Decision-maker, legislator, regulator, administrator, executive नीति निर्माता
42. **Unenviable** (adjective) – Undesirable, unattractive, thankless, difficult, challenging अवांछनीय

43. **Spending Spigot** (noun) – It refers to the control of financial outflows or expenditures

44. **Fiscal slippage** (noun) – Revenue loss to government due to corruption.

45. **Tighten the purse strings** (phrase) – to make less money available for spending
खर्च में कटौती करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The National Statistical Office (NSO) projects India's real GDP growth at 7.3% for the current fiscal year, slightly up from 7.2% in the previous year.
2. The increase in growth is primarily driven by government spending, hinting at an economy heavily reliant on state expenditure.
3. Gross Value Added (GVA) growth is expected to slow down to 6.9%, indicating a decrease from the previous fiscal year's 7%.
4. The agricultural sector, crucial for the rural economy and a significant employment provider, is projected to grow only by 1.8%, the slowest in eight years.
5. This slow growth in agriculture is attributed to a shortfall in kharif crop output and delays in rabi sowing, particularly in staples like paddy and pulses.
6. The services sector, especially trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting, is also experiencing a significant slowdown, growing at 6.3% compared to 14% last year.
7. On the demand side, private final consumption expenditure is at its lowest in over two decades, growing only by 4.4%.
8. The slowdown in private consumption is notably sharp compared to the 7.5% growth rate in the previous fiscal year.
9. Rural economy challenges, influenced by monsoon irregularities and reduced farm output, are impacting consumer demand for a variety of goods.
10. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), including government capital spending, is a positive aspect, growing by 10.3% and reaching a record 34.9% share of GDP.
11. The NSO's figures suggest a recovering but still fragile economy, with significant reliance on government spending for growth.
12. Private consumption, a major GDP component, is weak, indicating underlying economic challenges.
13. The service sector, another major economic component, is losing momentum, especially in job-providing sub-sectors.
14. Policymakers are facing a dilemma: continue heavy government spending to support growth or cut back spending to avoid fiscal risks, which might slow down the economy further.
15. The economic scenario is complex, especially in the context of the upcoming general election, requiring careful balance between fiscal responsibility and growth stimulation.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the NSO's projection and analysis of sectoral output and demand data, what can be inferred about the current state of the Indian economy?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The economy is robustly balanced, with equal growth in all sectors and a strong, consumption-led growth trajectory.
 - B. The economy is heavily reliant on government spending, with significant variations in growth across different sectors.
 - C. The economy is predominantly driven by the services sector, with negligible contributions from agriculture and related sectors.
 - D. The economy is facing a downturn, with all major sectors including services and agriculture showing negative growth.
2. **Considering the data presented in the passage, what conclusion can be drawn about the sectoral performance in the Indian economy?**
 - A. The agriculture sector is thriving and outpacing other sectors in growth, indicating a shift towards a more agrarian economy.
 - B. The services sector is consistently maintaining high growth rates, showcasing its resilience and dominance in the economy.
 - C. Both the agriculture sector and key components of the services sector are experiencing a slowdown in growth.
 - D. The industrial sector is the primary driver of economic growth, overshadowing the services and agriculture sectors.
3. **From the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following are true about the Indian economy EXCEPT that:**
 - A. Private final consumption expenditure is the largest component of GDP.
 - B. Private consumption spending growth is estimated to be at its lowest since the pandemic.
 - C. Gross fixed capital formation is not a significant contributor to GDP growth.
 - D. Policymakers face a tough decision between fiscal slippage and loss of growth momentum.
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Critical
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Enthusiastic
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The resilience of the rural economy
 - B. The impact of government policies on economic growth
 - C. The success of the services sector
 - D. The role of private sector investment
6. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement**

The Director will agree with the proposal if we do not exceed the budget.

 - A. No Improvement

- B. agree to the proposal
- C. agree on a proposal
- D. agreed by the proposal

Comprehension:

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

Communication plays a (1) _____ role in the overall development of man. It can be learnt by our (2) _____ efforts. Today, success in our professional life depends on our (3) _____ to read, write and speak well which results in effective communication. Barriers (4) _____ communication hinder the communication process. It is very important to (5) _____ these barriers so that the transmission of the message can be smooth

7. Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 1

- A. better
- B. total
- C. vital
- D. lifeless

8. Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 2

- A. unclear
- B. conscious
- C. contradictory
- D. Important

9. Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 3

- A. variety
- B. agility
- C. facility
- D. Ability

10. Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 4

- A. against
- B. by
- C. to
- D. From

11. Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 5

- A. strengthen
- B. overcome
- C. create
- D. Succeed

12. Select the correctly spelt word.

- A. exhoust
- B. exhibit
- C. exhail
- D. extract

13. Select the appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

- To take French leave
- A. Welcome the host
 - B. Acknowledge the host
 - C. Leave with written permission
 - D. Leave without any intimation
14. Select the correct **synonym** of the given word.
Scintillating
- A. Glittering
 - B. Boring
 - C. Stinging
 - D. Flattering
15. Select the word, which means the **same** as the given group of words.
Something that cannot be heard
- A. infallible
 - B. audible
 - C. inaudible
 - D. Irrevocable
16. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word.**
Handle this glass table with care because it is _____
- A. volatile
 - B. ductile
 - C. fragile
 - D. Frugal
17. Select the **correctly** spelt word.
- A. Humiliation
 - B. Bouquette
 - C. Sarcasm
 - D. Retalaite
18. Select the correct **antonym** of the given word.
Exodus
- A. Exit
 - B. Departure
 - C. Refund
 - D. Arrival
19. Select the correct **antonym** of the given word.
Quiescent
- A. Peaceful
 - B. Active
 - C. Dejected
 - D. Indifferent
20. Select the word, which means the **same** as the groups of words given.
A song sung at a burial

- A. Sonnet
B. Ballad
C. Hymn
D. Dirge
21. **In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.**
I can swim very fast when I was only five
A. very fast
B. I can swim
C. when I was
D. only five
22. **Select the appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
A hard nut to crack
A. Easily encouraged
B. Easily disappointed
C. A difficult problem
D. Not restrained
23. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement**
The captain as well the players were responsible for winning the trophy.
A. No Improvement
B. The captain as well as the players was
C. As The captain with the players were
D. The captain also the players were
24. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order**
A. However, they ignore the truth that progress and success are proportional to the labor they put in.
B. The general human tendency is to find faults in the policies framed by the government.
C. They blame the government for their slow progress, expecting miracles and magical transformation in their life.
D. So people openly criticize and condemn the policy makers.
A. CDAB
B. BDCA
C. DBAC
D. ABCD
25. **Select the indirect narration of the given sentence.**
He said to the hotel receptionist, "Can you tell me the tariff of rooms?"
A. He asked the hotel receptionist that if he can tell him the tariff of rooms.
B. He enquired the hotel receptionist if he can tell him the tariff of rooms.
C. He asked the hotel receptionist to tell him the tariff of rooms.
D. He asked the hotel receptionist if he could tell him the tariff of rooms.

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) The economy is heavily reliant on government spending, with significant variations in growth across different sectors.**

The passage indicates that government spending is a key factor propping up growth in the current fiscal year. It mentions that while there is an overall increase in the projected real GDP growth, the growth in various sectors is uneven. For instance, the agriculture sector's growth has slowed down significantly, and the growth in the services sector, particularly in trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting, has more than halved compared to the last fiscal. This points towards an economy that is not uniformly robust across sectors and is heavily reliant on government spending.

2. **C) Both the agriculture sector and key components of the services sector are experiencing a slowdown in growth.**

The passage clearly indicates a slowdown in key sectors of the economy. The agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing sector is expected to see its output expanding at its slowest pace in eight years, while the growth in the services sector, particularly in trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting, is also slowing down significantly. This suggests that both these critical sectors of the Indian economy are not performing as robustly as in previous years, pointing to an overall slowdown in sectoral performance.

3. **C) Gross fixed capital formation is not a significant contributor to GDP growth.**

The passage clearly states that Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) is growing and has reached a record 34.9% share of GDP this fiscal, indicating it is a significant contributor to GDP growth. Options a) and b) are directly supported by the passage, and d) is inferred from the final sentence discussing the policymakers' dilemma.

4. **B) Critical**

The tone of the passage is critical. This is evident from the way the author scrutinizes the government's role in propping up growth through spending and highlights the economy's struggles, such as the slowest non-pandemic year expansion in private consumption in over two decades and the challenges in the rural economy. The use of phrases like "economy still searching for durable drivers" and "risk of fiscal slippage" further conveys a tone of critique and concern over the current economic strategies and outcomes.

5. **B) The impact of government policies on economic growth**

The main theme of the passage is the impact of government policies on economic growth. The passage discusses how government spending is currently a major factor in sustaining economic growth, as indicated by the NSO projections. It points out the challenges faced in different

sectors, like agriculture and services, and the reliance on government expenditure to maintain economic momentum, especially in the context of the upcoming general election and the choices policymakers face. This theme is woven throughout the passage, connecting various economic factors to government actions and their consequences.

6. **B) 'agree with the proposal' के बदले 'agree to the proposal' का प्रयोग होगा। 'Agree with' का उपयोग तब किया जाता है जब हम किसी के विचार या राय से सहमत होते हैं, जबकि 'agree to' का प्रयोग तब होता है जब हम किसी प्रस्ताव या योजना पर सहमति देते हैं; जैसे—** She agreed to the terms of the contract.
- 'agree to the proposal' will be used instead of 'agree with the proposal'. 'Agree with' is used when agreeing with someone's opinion or idea, while 'agree to' is used when consenting to a proposal or plan; Like— She agreed to the terms of the contract
7. **C) 'Vital' का use होगा क्योंकि "vital" का अर्थ होता है अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण या जीवन के लिए आवश्यक। Sentence में बताया गया है कि communication व्यक्ति के समग्र विकास में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है, इसलिए 'vital' यहाँ सही है। 'Better' का अर्थ होता है अच्छा या बेहतर, 'Total' का अर्थ होता है पूर्ण या सम्पूर्ण, और 'Lifeless' का अर्थ होता है बिना जीवन के, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।**
- 'Vital' should be used because it means extremely important or necessary for life. The sentence communicates that communication plays an indispensable role in the comprehensive development of a person, making 'vital' the most fitting choice. On the other hand, 'Better' means improved or superior in quality, 'Total' implies the whole amount, and 'Lifeless' means devoid of life, which aren't suitable in this context.
8. **B) 'Conscious' का use होगा क्योंकि "conscious" का अर्थ होता है जागरूक या सोच समझ कर किया गया प्रयास। Sentence में बताया गया है कि communication को हमारे 'conscious efforts' से सीखा जा सकता है, इसका मतलब है कि हमें इसे सीखने के लिए जागरूक और सोच समझ कर प्रयास करना पड़ता है। 'Unclear' का अर्थ होता है अस्पष्ट, 'Contradictory' का अर्थ होता है विरोधाभासी, और 'Important' का अर्थ होता है महत्वपूर्ण, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।**
- 'Conscious' should be used because it means being aware or deliberate. The sentence states that communication can be learnt by our 'conscious efforts,' meaning we need to be thoughtful and deliberate in our attempts to learn it. 'A. Unclear' means not clear or hard to understand, 'C. Contradictory' means opposite or conflicting, and 'D. Important' means of great significance, which are not appropriate in this context.

9. **D) 'Ability'** का use होगा क्योंकि "ability" का अर्थ होता है किसी क्षेत्र में कुशलता या क्षमता होना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि पेशेवर जीवन में सफलता हमारी पढ़ने, लिखने और अच्छे से बोलने की क्षमता पर निर्भर करती है, इसलिए 'Ability' यहाँ सही है। 'Variety' का अर्थ होता है विविधता, 'Agility' का अर्थ है फुर्तिलापन, और 'Facility' का अर्थ है सुविधा या क्षमता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Ability'** should be used because it means the skill or competence in a particular area. The sentence mentions that success in professional life depends on our skill to read, write, and speak well, making 'ability' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Variety' means diversity, 'Agility' means swiftness, and 'Facility' implies a capability or amenity, which are incorrect in this context.
10. **C) 'To'** का use होगा क्योंकि "to" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की दिशा में या उसकी तरफ। Sentence में barriers का mention है जो communication process को हिंदर करते हैं, इसलिए "barriers to communication" यहाँ सही है। 'Against', 'by' और 'from' इस context में गलत हैं क्योंकि वे इस particular phrase के साथ grammatically incorrect होते हैं।
- **'To'** should be used because it indicates direction towards something. The sentence mentions barriers that hinder the communication process, making "barriers to communication" appropriate here. 'Against', 'by', and 'from' are incorrect in this context as they are grammatically incorrect with this particular phrase.
11. **'B) Overcome'** का use होगा क्योंकि "overcome" का अर्थ होता है किसी बाधा या समस्या को पार करना या उसे हराना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह महत्वपूर्ण है इन बाधाओं को पार करना ताकि संदेश का संचार सुचारू हो सके, इसलिए 'overcome' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Strengthen' का अर्थ है मजबूत बनाना, 'Create' का अर्थ है बनाना, और 'Succeed' का अर्थ है सफल होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Overcome'** should be used because it means to get past or conquer a barrier or problem. The sentence mentions the importance of getting past these barriers for smooth communication, making 'overcome' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Strengthen' means to make stronger, 'Create' means to make or bring into existence, and 'Succeed' implies to achieve a goal, which are not suitable in this context.
12. **B)** The correct spelling among the options is **'exhibit'** प्रदर्शन करना, प्रस्तुत करना
13. **D) To take French leave** (idiom) – Leave without any intimation **बिना किसी सूचना के छोड़ देना**
14. **A) Scintillating** (adjective) – Sparkling, shining brightly, brilliant, dazzling. **चमकीला**

Synonym: **Glittering** (adjective) – Shining with a bright, shimmering, reflected light. चमकता हुआ

- **Boring** (adjective) – Not interesting, tedious, dull. उबाऊ
- **Stinging** (adjective) – Causing a sharp or tingling pain, biting. कटौती
- **Flattering** (adjective) – Full of praise and compliments, adulatory, complimentary. चापलूस

15. C) **Inaudible** (adjective) - Not able to be heard न सुनाई पड़नेवाला

- **Infallible** (adjective) – Incapable of making mistakes or being wrong अचूक
- **Audible** (adjective) – Able to be heard सुनाई देने योग्य
- **Irrevocable** (adjective) – Not able to be changed, reversed, or recovered; final अपरिवर्तनीय

16. C) '**Fragile**' का use होगा क्योंकि "fragile" का अर्थ होता है टूटने या टूट जाने की संभावना वाला। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि इस glass table को सावधानी से हैंडल किया जाना चाहिए, इसलिए 'fragile' यहाँ सही है। 'Volatile' का अर्थ होता है अस्थिर या परिस्थितिक, 'Ductile' का अर्थ है लचीला, और 'Frugal' का अर्थ है मितव्ययी, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Fragile**' should be used because it means easily broken or damaged. The sentence mentions that this glass table should be handled with care, making 'fragile' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Volatile' means unstable or changeable, 'Ductile' means capable of being drawn out or flexible, and 'Frugal' means economical or sparing, which don't fit in this context.

17. C) The correct spelling among the given options is '**Sarcasm**' 'व्यंग्य'

18. D) **Exodus** (noun) – A mass departure of people, typically emigrants. निर्गमन

Antonym: **Arrival** (noun) – The action or process of arriving. आगमन

- **Exit** (noun) – A way out of a building, room, or passenger vehicle. बाहर जाने का रास्ता; it is a synonym.
- **Departure** (noun) – The action of leaving, typically to start a journey. प्रस्थान; it is a synonym.
- **Refund** (noun) – A repayment of a sum of money, typically to a dissatisfied customer. पैसे वापसी; it is unrelated to the given word.

19. B) **Quiescent** (adjective) – Inactive, dormant, at rest, still, quiet. शांत

Antonym: **Active** (adjective) – Engaged in action, operational, working, in use. सक्रिय

- **Peaceful** (adjective) – Free from disturbance, calm, tranquil, serene. शांत
- **Dejected** (adjective) – Sad, depressed, downhearted, despondent. उदास
- **Indifferent** (adjective) – Having no particular interest or sympathy, uninterested, unconcerned. उदासीन

20. D) **Dirge** (noun) – A mournful song, piece of music, or poem that is performed during a funeral.

शोकगीत

- **Sonnet** (noun) – A poem of 14 lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, typically having 10 syllables per line. गाथा
- **Ballad** (noun) – A narrative poem, often of folk origin and intended to be sung, consisting of simple stanzas and usually having a refrain. गाथा गीत
- **Hymn** (noun) – A religious song or poem of praise to God or a god. भजन

21. B) 'I can swim' के बदले 'I could swim' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'when I was only five' के अनुसार यह क्रिया भूतकाल में हुई थी, इसलिए सहायक क्रिया 'can' की जगह 'could' होनी चाहिए; जैसे— I could run faster when I was younger.

- 'I could swim' will be used instead of 'I can swim' because according to 'when I was only five', the action happened in the past, so the auxiliary verb 'can' should be replaced with 'could'; Like— I could run faster when I was younger.

22. C) **A hard nut to crack** (idiom) – A difficult problem कठिन समस्या

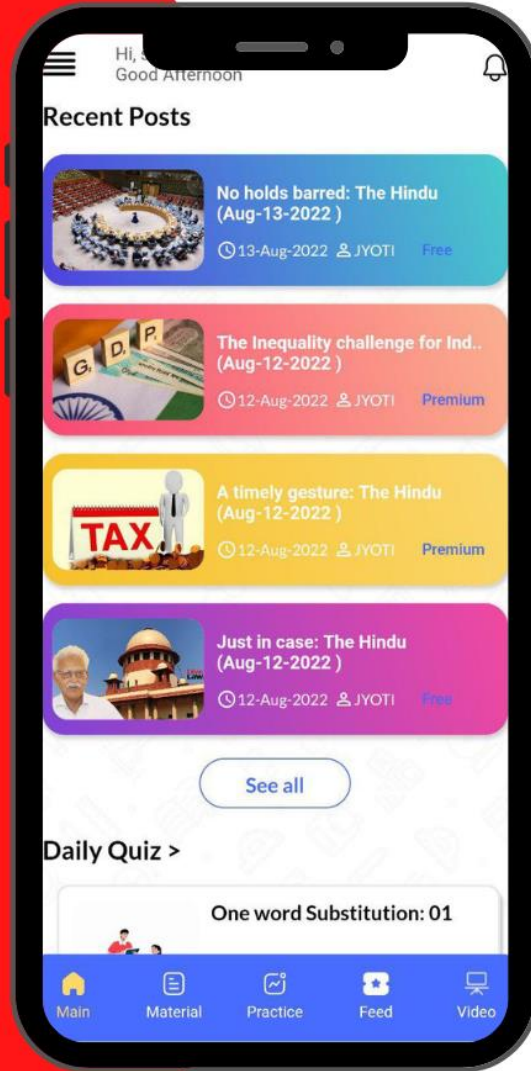
23. B) **The captain as well as the players was** का चयन होगा क्योंकि 'as well as' के साथ हमेशा First Subject के अनुसार Verb का प्रयोग होता है। यदि पहला Subject Singular है तो Verb भी Singular होगा; जैसे— Neither the teacher nor the students was attentive.

- 'The captain as well as the players was' will be selected because with 'as well as', the verb is always used according to the first subject. If the first subject is singular, the verb will also be singular; Like— Neither the teacher nor the students was attentive.

24. B) **BDCA**

The general human tendency is to find faults in the policies framed by the government. So people openly criticize and condemn the policy makers. They blame the government for their slow progress, expecting miracles and magical transformation in their life. However, they ignore the truth that progress and success are proportional to the labor they put in.

25. D) He asked the hotel receptionist if he could tell him the tariff of rooms.



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