

Express View on employment data: The elusive jobs

The Reserve Bank of India has **pegged** the Indian economy to grow at 7.2 per cent this year. Medium term **forecasts**, such as those by the IMF, **expect** the **momentum** to continue over the coming years. However, **concern** over the lack of quality jobs **continues** to **persist**. The recently released periodic labour force survey provides **granular** information on the **state** of the labour market in India. Several trends **warrant** closer examination.

First, at the **aggregate** level, the labour force participation rate (15 years and above) has risen from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 60.1 per cent in 2023-24. However, much of this is due to the sharp rise in female participation, especially in rural areas, where it has risen from 24.6 per cent to 47.6 per cent over this period. While a rise in female participation should ideally be welcome, some have **argued** that it may be a sign of **distress** — women **stepping out** of the house to **augment** their household income. As per the survey, **the share** of women engaged in salaried employment **has** fallen. More are now engaged in self-employment — across the country, **the share** of women who are self-employed **has** risen from 51.9 per cent in 2017-18 to 67.4 per cent in 2023-24 — either as unpaid helpers in household enterprises or as own-account workers. This indicates the absence of alternatives. Second, a large **section** of the labour force **continues** to be employed in informal firms. The **percentage** of workers engaged in **informal enterprises (proprietary and partnerships)** **stood** at 73.2 per cent in 2023-24. While it has fallen **marginally** from 74.3 per cent in 2022-23, it remains higher than the estimate of 68.2 per cent in 2017-18. Third, the share of the labour force engaged in agriculture continues to **edge** upwards, while that engaged in manufacturing remains almost **stagnant**. In 2017-18, 44.1 per cent of workers were employed in the farm sector. By 2023-24, it had risen to 46.1 per cent, **underlining** the **reversal** of the trend of the falling share of the farm sector seen over the past **decades**. On the other hand, the **share** of the labour force engaged in manufacturing **remains** roughly the same — 11.6 per cent in 2021-22 and 11.4 per cent in 2023-24. Fourth, the unemployment rate (15 years and above) has fallen from 6 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24. While youth unemployment has fallen from 17.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 10.2 per cent in 2023-24, it remains high. The unemployment rate is also higher among the more educated, with those with a secondary and above level of education having much higher rates than others.

The labour market data **reinforces** the key development challenge facing India — of inadequate creation of more **remunerative** and **productive** employment opportunities. **Addressing** this challenge is becoming more difficult with the production process becoming more **capital intensive** and **labour-saving**, as the India Employment Report 2024 has also noted. This issue should **be at the forefront** of the policy **agenda**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Elusive** (adjective) – Difficult to find, catch, or achieve; hard to pin down. कठिनाता से प्राप्त होने वाला
2. **Peg** (verb) – Estimate, fix, set, determine. अनुमान लगाना
3. **Forecast** (noun) – Prediction, projection, outlook, estimate. पूर्वानुमान
4. **Momentum** (noun) – Driving force, impetus, thrust, pace. गति
5. **Persist** (verb) – Continue, remain, endure, last. बने रहना
6. **Granular** (adjective) – Detailed, specific, in-depth, fine-grained. विस्तृत
7. **State** (noun) – Condition, situation, status, position. स्थिति
8. **Warrant** (verb) – Justify, necessitate, call for, deserve. जरूरी बनाना
9. **Aggregate** (adjective) – Total, combined, overall, collective. समग्र
10. **Argue** (verb) – Claim, contend, assert, reason. तर्क करना
11. **Distress** (noun) – Suffering, hardship, pain, trouble. संकट
12. **Step out** (phrasal verb) – Leave, venture out, move out, exit. बाहर निकलना
13. **Augment** (verb) – Increase, enhance, expand, amplify. बढ़ाना
14. **Informal enterprise** (noun) – Business activities that operate outside of formal regulations and are not registered.
15. **Proprietary** (adjective) – Privately owned, exclusive, registered, ownership-based. स्वामित्व संबंधी
16. **Marginally** (adverb) – Slightly, minimally, barely, to a small extent. थोड़े से
17. **Edge** (verb) – Gradually move, approach, shift, inch. धीरे-धीरे बढ़ना
18. **Stagnant** (adjective) – Inactive, unchanging, stationary, sluggish. स्थिर
19. **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, draw attention to. जोर देना
20. **Reversal** (noun) – Turnaround, change, shift, U-turn. उलटफेर
21. **Decade** (noun) – A period of ten years. दशक
22. **Reinforce** (verb) – Strengthen, support, bolster, consolidate. मजबूत करना
23. **Remunerative** (adjective) – Financially rewarding, profitable, lucrative, well-paid. लाभदायक
24. **Productive** (adjective) – Efficient, effective, fruitful, constructive. उत्पादक

25. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, respond to, focus on. समाधान करना

26. **Capital intensive** (adjective) – Requiring a large investment in capital (machinery, buildings) rather than labor.

27. **Labour-saving** (adjective) – Reducing the amount of labor required; mechanized, automated, efficiency-increasing.

28. **Be at the forefront** (phrase) – To be in a leading position, be a priority, take precedence. अग्रणी स्थिति में होना

29. **Agenda** (noun) – Plan, list of items to address, schedule, program. कार्यसूची

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Economic Growth Projection:** The Reserve Bank of India predicts the Indian economy to grow at 7.2% this year, with medium-term forecasts by the IMF indicating continued momentum.
2. **Concern Over Job Quality:** Despite economic growth, concerns remain about the lack of quality employment opportunities in the country.
3. **Rising Labour Force Participation Rate:** The labour force participation rate (15 years and above) has increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 60.1% in 2023-24.
4. **Increase in Female Labour Participation:** Female participation, particularly in rural areas, has risen sharply from 24.6% in 2017-18 to 47.6% in 2023-24.
5. **Possible Sign of Distress:** The rise in female participation may indicate economic distress, with women stepping out to contribute to household income due to insufficient earnings.
6. **Shift in Female Employment:** The share of women in salaried jobs has decreased, while self-employment among women has increased from 51.9% in 2017-18 to 67.4% in 2023-24.
7. **Nature of Self-Employment:** Many women are now either unpaid helpers in household enterprises or own-account workers, indicating a lack of formal employment alternatives.
8. **High Informal Employment:** The percentage of workers in informal enterprises remains high at 73.2% in 2023-24, only a marginal decline from 74.3% in 2022-23.
9. **Informal Sector Dominance:** Informal employment is still higher than the 68.2% recorded in 2017-18, highlighting persistent informality in the labour market.
10. **Agriculture Employment Increase:** The share of the workforce employed in agriculture has increased from 44.1% in 2017-18 to 46.1% in 2023-24, reversing a long-term declining trend.
11. **Stagnant Manufacturing Employment:** The share of the labour force in manufacturing has stagnated, being 11.6% in 2021-22 and 11.4% in 2023-24.
12. **Falling Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 and above has decreased from 6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24.
13. **Youth Unemployment Decline:** Youth unemployment has reduced from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10.2% in 2023-24 but remains concerningly high.
14. **Higher Unemployment Among Educated:** Unemployment rates are higher for individuals with secondary education and above, indicating a mismatch between education and job availability.
15. **Policy Challenge:** The data highlights a critical challenge for India — the need to create more remunerative and productive jobs, especially as production processes become more capital-intensive and labour-saving.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Concerned
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Sarcastic
2. **Why has the female labour force participation rate increased significantly in rural areas?**
 - A. Women are now receiving more educational opportunities.
 - B. There has been an increase in salaried employment for women.
 - C. Women are stepping out to contribute to household income due to economic distress.
 - D. The agriculture sector has opened up more jobs for women.
3. **What can be inferred about the nature of employment in India based on the passage?**
 - A. Most of the employment opportunities are moving towards the manufacturing sector.
 - B. The rise in female participation is largely due to an increase in salaried positions in rural areas.
 - C. A significant proportion of the workforce is engaged in low-quality jobs.
 - D. The unemployment rate has risen sharply in recent years.
4. **According to the passage, what percentage of workers were employed in the agricultural sector in 2023-24?**
 - A. 44.1%
 - B. 46.1%
 - C. 47.6%
 - D. 49.8%
5. The phrase "**at the forefront of the policy agenda**" in the passage suggests that employment challenges should be:
 - A. Kept in the background
 - B. Ignored in favor of other issues
 - C. Given the highest priority
 - D. Left to the private sector
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A. A typically belligerent Israel is pulling out all the stops to inflict damage on Hezbollah in Lebanon.
 - B. He has no qualms about creating a mess that he can't or won't clean up.
 - C. The international community, not for the first time, looks helpless to stop the no-holds-barred offensive that has killed hundreds of Lebanese people in a matter of days.
 - D. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who will address the UN General Assembly in New York today, has told his army to fight on.
 - A. ACDB
 - B. CABD
 - C. BCAD

D. ABCD

7. For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.

S1: The pension system in India has undergone a significant transformation over the years with three major schemes, the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), New Pension Scheme (NPS), and the proposed Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), marking the different phases of government policy.

S4: In this context, the UPS requires considerable rectification to ensure that it serves the interests of retirees effectively.

P: Each scheme impacts retirees in different ways, with the OPS often being viewed as a more secure system compared to the NPS, which ties retirement funds to volatile market conditions.

Q: As the world witnesses a retreat from neoliberal policies, the debate around welfarism is being reignited.

R: The state government earlier issued a directive to officials to deliver the pension of elderly and disabled beneficiaries to their doorstep.

S: Now, the panchayat extension officer was asked to disburse the old-age pension to Dehury at her home each month.

- A. P and Q
- B. P and R
- C. P and S
- D. Q and S

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.

Romantic poetry is a literary movement that emerged in the late 18th century and continued through the mid-19th century. It is (1)_____ by an emphasis on emotion, imagination and individualism. Romantic poets sought to express their innermost thoughts and feelings through their poetry, often exploring (2)_____ such as love, beauty and mortality. One of the defining features of Romantic poetry is its use of language and imagery to evoke powerful emotions in the reader. Many Romantic poets, such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (3)_____ that poetry should be written in the language of common people, rather than in the lofty, formal language of the past. They also incorporated vivid descriptions of nature and the natural world into their poetry, using it as a source of inspiration and spiritual renewal. (4)_____ important aspect of Romantic poetry is its focus on the individual and the subjective experience. Romantic poets believed that each person's experience of the world was unique and valuable, and sought to capture this individuality in their writing. This led to a greater emphasis on personal expression and introspection in poetry, (5)_____ a rejection of the traditional poetic forms and structures of the past.

8. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.
- A. characterising

- B. characterised
C. characteristic
D. characterises
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. problems
B. concerns
C. arguments
D. themes
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
A. believed
B. will believe
C. could believe
D. believes
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
A. Additional
B. Mostly
C. Farther
D. Another
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
A. as well as
B. whereas
C. therefore
D. But
13. **Select the most appropriate connotation to fill in the blank.**
Raju is such a _____ always prying into other people's business!
A. perky
B. nosy
C. cheeky
D. stingy
14. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
He asked his father when would come the next letter
A. the next letter would come
B. would the next letter come
C. No substitution required
D. come the next letter
15. **Identify the incorrectly spelt word and select its correct spelling.**
It is his previlage to present all the candidates for ordination to the bishop of the diocese
A. prevalage
B. deocease
C. odination

D. privilege

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

Skeptic

- A. Careful
- B. Believer
- C. Infidel
- D. Atheist

17. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Planets in our solar system close and big for them to twinkle

- A. are too close and big
- B. very close and big
- C. are quite close and big
- D. is close and big

18. Which of the following sentences contains the ANTONYM of the word 'ignore'?

- A. Avoid foods which make you sick.
- B. Ritika recognised Kavita in the gathering.
- C. He did not succeed in gaining custody of his daughter.
- D. To keep a tidy kitchen, do not neglect washing your dishes.

19. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the following sentence.

If you do hard work, you will have the expected results

- A. required results
- B. desired results
- C. bad results
- D. good results

20. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Bread and butter

- A. An activity you do to get help others
- B. An activity you do to get money for basic needs
- C. An activity you do to improve your culinary skills
- D. An activity you do with determination

21. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.

The professor did an objective evaluation.

- A. prejudiced
- B. unfair
- C. unjust
- D. unbiased

22. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.

Her voice, soft and _____, (shrill) flowed effortlessly through the room

- A. piercing
- B. nasal
- C. mellow
- D. croaky

23. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.

- A. Accurate
- B. Excellence
- C. Mantain
- D. Aquarium

24. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.

Although I have a lot of work to do, I am determined to finish it all by the end of the day so that I can enjoy my weekend not having any imminent due dates

- A. without any looming deadlines
- B. not leaving any work incomplete
- C. with no pending reservations
- D. not with any pressure of due date

25. Select the most appropriate idiomatic expression that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Last year art critics praised Animesh as if he were a master, but he turned out to be a pleasure for a short time

- A. a dish fit for Gods
- B. a house of cards
- C. a bull in a china shop
- D. a nine days' wonder

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Concerned

The passage addresses various concerns related to the employment sector, such as the lack of quality jobs, increasing informal employment, and rising female participation potentially due to economic distress. The author's tone reflects a sense of worry and apprehension over these issues, indicating a concerned tone.

A: Incorrect because, although the passage mentions economic growth, it primarily focuses on negative employment trends, which do not create an optimistic tone.

C: Incorrect because the passage takes a clear stance by highlighting challenges in the employment sector, which suggests that the author is not neutral.

D: Incorrect because there is no use of irony or sarcasm in the passage. The language is direct and straightforward, aimed at expressing concern over employment trends.

2. C) Women are stepping out to contribute to household income due to economic distress.

The passage suggests that the increase in female labour force participation in rural areas is seen as a possible indicator of economic distress, where women are compelled to work to augment household income. This is emphasized by the observation that a larger proportion of women are now engaged in self-employment rather than salaried positions, indicating a lack of better employment opportunities.

A: Incorrect because the passage does not mention an increase in educational opportunities as a reason for rising participation.

B: Incorrect because the passage explicitly states that the share of women in salaried employment has fallen.

D: Incorrect because, while the agricultural sector's share has increased, the passage does not attribute the rise in female participation specifically to new opportunities in agriculture.

3. C) A significant proportion of the workforce is engaged in low-quality jobs.

The passage highlights that a large share of the workforce is engaged in informal employment and self-employment. It also mentions that many women are involved in unpaid work or work as own-account workers, which indicates the prevalence of low-quality jobs in the Indian employment sector.

A: Incorrect because the passage mentions that employment in manufacturing remains almost stagnant.

B: Incorrect because the share of women in salaried employment has actually decreased, not increased.

D: Incorrect because the passage states that the unemployment rate has actually fallen from 6% to 3.2% over the period discussed.

4. B) 46.1%

The passage states that in 2023-24, the share of workers employed in the agricultural sector had risen to 46.1%. This figure is mentioned as a comparison with the previous percentage in 2017-18, highlighting a reversal of the declining trend seen in previous decades.

A. 44.1%: Incorrect because this was the percentage of workers in the farm sector in 2017-18, not 2023-24.

C. 47.6%: Incorrect because 47.6% represents the female participation rate in rural areas, not the overall agricultural employment rate.

D. 49.8%: Incorrect as this percentage refers to the labour force participation rate in 2017-18, not the employment in the farm sector.

5. C) Given the highest priority

The phrase "at the forefront of the policy agenda" means that employment challenges should be treated as the most important issue and should receive the highest level of attention and action by policymakers.

A. Incorrect because it suggests prioritizing the issue, not pushing it to the background.

B. Incorrect as "at the forefront" means the issue should be of primary importance, not ignored.

D. Incorrect because the passage calls for the issue to be addressed through policy, which implies government action, not reliance on the private sector.

6. A) ACDB

A: This sentence sets the context by introducing Israel's aggressive stance and its current military actions against Hezbollah in Lebanon. "A typically belligerent Israel" (subject) introduces Israel's nature, and "is pulling out all the stops" (verb phrase) describes its action

C: This sentence builds on the situation introduced in A by stating the international response (or lack thereof) to Israel's actions.

D: This sentence adds a specific detail about the Israeli leadership's stance, introduced after mentioning the international community's reaction. It logically follows as it provides a direct statement from the Prime Minister of Israel.

B: This sentence provides a concluding remark about Netanyahu's attitude, reflecting on his lack of concern for the consequences of the aggressive stance mentioned in D. "He" (pronoun) refers back to Netanyahu mentioned in D. The phrase "has no qualms" (verb phrase) indicates his attitude toward the situation.

7. A) P and Q

S2: This sentence logically follows S1 by discussing the implications of these schemes on retirees and comparing the security of the OPS with the NPS.

S3: This sentence introduces a broader perspective, linking the debate around pension schemes in India to a global trend of reconsidering welfare policies.

The paragraph is intended to discuss the different pension schemes (OPS, NPS, UPS) and their policy implications. R and S detract from this by focusing on a specific, local directive rather than pension schemes or their impacts.

8. B) 'Characterised' का use होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द "is" के साथ passive form में प्रयोग किया गया है, जो दर्शाता है कि रोमांटिक कविताएं किस प्रकार की विशेषताओं से पहचानी जाती हैं।

'Characterised' का अर्थ है "विशिष्ट गुणों से पहचाना जाना" और यह यहाँ सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में Romantic poetry की मुख्य विशेषताओं का वर्णन किया जा रहा है। जबकि, 'Characterising' का प्रयोग active form के लिए होता है, 'Characteristic' एक संज्ञा है जिसका अर्थ "विशेषता" है, और 'Characterises' active verb है जो इस वाक्य में 'is' के साथ सही नहीं बैठेगा।

'Characterised' will be used because it is in the passive form with "is," indicating what Romantic poetry is defined by. 'Characterised' means "being defined by specific features," which fits here as the sentence is describing the main characteristics of Romantic poetry. Whereas, 'Characterising' is used in active form, 'Characteristic' is a noun meaning "a distinguishing feature," and 'Characterises' is an active verb, which would not fit correctly with "is" in this context.

9. D) 'Themes' का use होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द कविता या साहित्यिक कृतियों में प्रमुख विचारों या विषयों को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। वाक्य में Romantic poets के द्वारा प्रेम, सौंदर्य और मृत्यु जैसे विषयों की चर्चा की गई है, जो 'themes' शब्द के लिए सही context है। जबकि 'Problems' का अर्थ समस्याएं हैं, 'Concerns' का अर्थ चिंताएं हैं, और 'Arguments' का अर्थ तर्क-वितर्क है, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

'Themes' will be used because it refers to the central ideas or subjects in poetry or literary works. In the sentence, the Romantic poets are discussing concepts like love, beauty, and mortality, which are correctly referred to as 'themes.' Whereas, 'Problems' means issues, 'Concerns' means worries, and 'Arguments' means disagreements, none of which fit this context.

10. A) **believed** का use होगा क्योंकि "believed" का अर्थ है मानना या विश्वास करना। यह past tense है और passage में अन्य actions भी past tense में लिखे गए हैं, जैसे "sought" और "incorporated"। इसलिए 'believed' यहाँ सही है। **will believe** का अर्थ है भविष्य में मानेंगे, जो कि context में सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह future tense है और बाकी का passage past tense में है। **could believe** का अर्थ है मान सकते थे, जो कि सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह एक hypothetical situation को दर्शाता है, जबकि passage में वास्तविकता को दर्शाया गया है। **believes** का अर्थ है मानता है, जो कि present tense है और context में सही नहीं है क्योंकि passage में actions past tense में हैं।

believed will be used because it means to think or have a belief. It is in the past tense, and other actions in the passage are also in the past tense, like "sought" and "incorporated." Therefore, 'believed' is correct here. **will believe** means will believe in the future, which is not correct in the context because it is future tense and the rest of the passage is in past tense. **could believe** means could believe, which is not correct because it represents a hypothetical situation, whereas the passage depicts reality. **believes** means believes, which is present tense and does not fit in the context because the passage actions are in past tense.

11. D) **Another**' का use होगा क्योंकि "another" का अर्थ होता है एक और या दूसरा, जो इस context में सही बैठता है। Sentence में बात की जा रही है एक और महत्वपूर्ण पहलू की, जो रोमांटिक कविता के बारे में है। Additional - "Additional" का अर्थ है अतिरिक्त, लेकिन यहाँ संदर्भ एक और महत्वपूर्ण पहलू की ओर है, इसलिए यह सही नहीं है। Mostly - "Mostly" का अर्थ है अधिकतर, जो कि संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यहाँ किसी विशेष पहलू की बात की जा रही है। Farther - "Farther" का अर्थ है दूर, जो कि संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठता।

Another' will be used because it means one more or a different one, which fits the context. The sentence is discussing another important aspect of Romantic poetry. Additional" means extra, but here the context is about another important aspect, so it's not suitable. "Mostly" means mainly, which does not fit the context as it is talking about a specific aspect. "Farther" means at a greater distance, which does not fit the context.

12. A) **'as well as'** का use होगा क्योंकि "as well as" का अर्थ होता है "और भी" या "साथ ही साथ"। sentence में mention किया गया है कि Romantic poetry में व्यक्तिगत अभिव्यक्ति और introspection पर अधिक जोर दिया गया, और पुराने पारंपरिक काव्य रूपों और संरचनाओं को अस्वीकार कर दिया गया, इसलिए 'as well as' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'whereas' का अर्थ है "जबकि", जो विरोधाभास या तुलना दर्शाता है, जो इस sentence में fit नहीं होता। 'therefore' का अर्थ है "अतः", जो कारण और परिणाम का संबंध दर्शाता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'but' का अर्थ है "लेकिन", जो विरोधाभास दर्शाता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है।

as well as' will be used because it means "and also" or "as well", which fits the context here. It indicates that along with a greater emphasis on personal expression and introspection, there was also a rejection of traditional poetic forms and structures. 'whereas' means "while", which indicates a contrast or comparison, not suitable in this sentence. 'therefore' means "so" or "thus", which shows a cause-effect relationship, not fitting here. 'but' means "however", which indicates a contrast, not suitable here.

13. B) **Nosy**' का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे context में, sentence एक ऐसे व्यक्ति की चर्चा कर रहा है जो हमेशा दूसरों के मामलों में टांग अड़ता रहता है। यहाँ "Raju is such a _____ always prying into other people's business!" के माध्यम से उस व्यक्ति को दर्शाया जा रहा है जो अत्यधिक जिज्ञासु और दूसरों के मामलों में हस्तक्षेप करने वाला है। इसलिए, "nosy" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- **Perky** (adjective) – Lively, cheerful, and full of energy. दिलेर
- **Cheeky** (adjective) – Impudent or irreverent, often in an amusing or endearing way; boldly rude or disrespectful. अशिष्ट

- **Stingy** (adjective) – Unwilling to spend or give; miserly or ungenerous. कंजूस
 - **Nosy** (adjective) – Overly curious about other people's affairs; prying. ताक-झाँकिया
 - **'Nosy'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing a person who is always interfering in other people's business. Here, through "Raju is such a _____ always prying into other people's business!", it portrays that overly curious and interfering nature of the person. Thus, "nosy" would be the most appropriate choice.
14. A) 'would come the next letter' के बदले **'the next letter would come'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Indirect Speech' में 'Question form' को 'Statement form' में बदलना होता है; जैसे— He asked his father when the next letter would come.
- **'the next letter would come'** will be used instead of 'would come the next letter' because in Indirect Speech, the Question form should be converted into Statement form; Like— He asked his father when the next letter would come.
15. D) The correct spelling of 'previlage' is **'privilege'** which means "a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group" **विशेष अधिकार**.
16. B) **Skeptic** (noun) – A person inclined to question or doubt all accepted opinions. संदेहवादी
Antonym: **Believer** (noun) – A person who accepts something as true or real; one who has a firm conviction in the truth or existence of something. आस्तिक/ विश्वास करने वाला
- **Careful** (adjective) – Making sure of avoiding potential danger, mishap, or harm; cautious. सावधान
 - **Infidel** (noun) – A person who does not believe in religion or who adheres to a religion other than one's own. विधर्मी/ संदेहवादी
 - **Atheist** (noun) – A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods. नास्तिक
17. A) 'are too close and big' का use होगा क्योंकि यह सही अभिव्यक्ति है जो यह दर्शाती है कि ग्रह हमारे सौर मंडल में इतने करीब और बड़े हैं कि वे टिमटिमा नहीं सकते। 'too' का प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब कोई चीज़ इतनी ज्यादा हो कि उसका एक निश्चित प्रभाव हो।
Note: 'quite' का उपयोग करने से वाक्य का अर्थ बदल जाएगा। 'quite' का अर्थ होता है "काफी" या "बहुत," लेकिन यह हमेशा उस डिग्री को व्यक्त नहीं करता है जो 'too' व्यक्त करता है। 'Quite close and big' का मतलब होगा कि ग्रह काफी करीब और बड़े हैं, लेकिन यह यह नहीं दर्शाता कि वे इतने करीब और बड़े हैं कि वे टिमटिमा नहीं सकते। इस कारण से, 'quite' इस संदर्भ में सही विकल्प नहीं है।
- 'are too close and big' will be used because it is the correct expression indicating that the planets in our solar system are so close and big that they do not twinkle. 'Too' is

used when something is of such a degree that it has a certain effect, which in this case means the planets are too close and big to twinkle.

Note: Using 'quite' would change the meaning of the sentence. 'Quite' means "fairly" or "very," but it does not always convey the same degree as 'too.' 'Quite close and big' would suggest that the planets are fairly close and big, but it does not imply that they are so close and big that they cannot twinkle. Therefore, 'quite' is not the correct choice in this context.

18. B) **Ritika recognised Kavita in the gathering** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence

"ignore" के antonym की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "recognised" के माध्यम से उस विपरीत भाव को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें "ignore" का अर्थ नजरअंदाज करना होता है और "recognise" का अर्थ पहचानना होता है। इसलिए, "recognised" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**Ritika recognised Kavita in the gathering**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the antonym of the word "ignore". Here, through "recognised", it portrays that opposite sentiment where "ignore" means to overlook, and "recognise" means to identify or acknowledge. Thus, "recognised" would be the most appropriate choice.

19. B) 'desired results' का प्रयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह सही expression है जो यह दर्शाती है

कि किसी विशेष प्रयास के बाद व्यक्ति जिन परिणामों की उम्मीद करता है, वे परिणाम प्राप्त होंगे। 'Desired results' का मतलब है वो परिणाम जो किसी के मन में होते हैं या जो किसी को चाहिए होते हैं। इस संदर्भ में, 'desired results' सही विकल्प है; जैसे—"If you do hard work, you will have the desired results."

- 'desired results' will be used because it is the correct expression indicating that the person will achieve the results they are hoping for after putting in hard work. 'Desired results' means the outcomes that are wanted or hoped for. In this context, 'desired results' is the appropriate choice; Like—"If you do hard work, you will have the desired results."

20. B) **Bread and butter (idiom) – An activity you do to get money for basic needs जीवनयापन का साधन**

21. D) **Objective** (adjective) – Not influenced by personal feelings or opinions, considering only facts, impartial, unbiased. निष्पक्ष

Substitute: **Unbiased** (adjective) – Showing no prejudice for or against something, impartial, fair. निष्पक्ष

- **Prejudiced** (adjective) – Having or showing a dislike or distrust derived from preconceived and unfounded opinions, biased. पूर्वाग्रहग्रस्त
- **Unfair** (adjective) – Not based on or behaving according to the principles of equality and justice, unjust, inequitable. अन्यायपूर्ण

- **Unjust** (adjective) – Not based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair, unfair, inequitable. अन्यायपूर्ण

22. C) **Shrill** (adjective) – High-pitched and piercing sound. तेज़ और तीखा

Antonym: **Mellow** (adjective) – Smooth, soft, and free from harshness. मधुर

- **Piercing** (adjective) – Very high, loud, and sharp. तीखा
- **Nasal** (adjective) – Sounding as if the nose is being pinched. नासिक्य
- **Croaky** (adjective) – Deep and hoarse. कर्कश

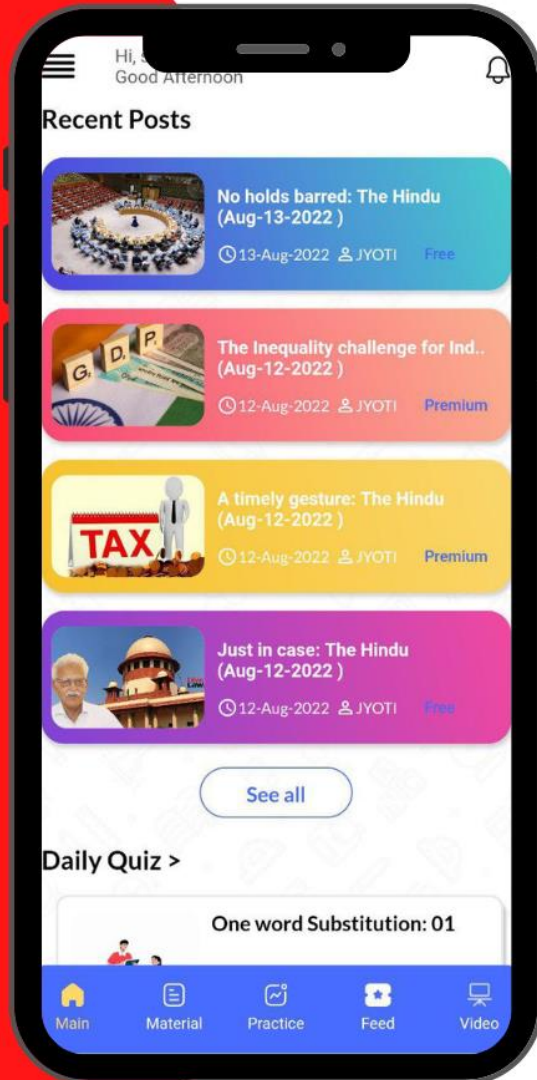
23. C) The **incorrectly** spelt word is '**Mantain**'. The correct spelling is '**Maintain**' which means "cause or enable (a condition or state of affairs) to continue." बनाए रखना, स्थिर रखना.

24. A) 'without any looming deadlines' का प्रयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह सही अभिव्यक्ति है जो यह दर्शाती है कि वक्ता दिन के अंत तक अपने सभी कार्य समाप्त कर लेना चाहता है ताकि उसके पास कोई अत्यधिक निकट की समय-सीमाएँ (imminent due dates) न हों। 'Looming deadlines' का मतलब होता है निकट भविष्य में आने वाली या सामने आ रही समय-सीमाएँ, जो कि इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में सबसे उपयुक्त है; जैसे— "Although I have a lot of work to do, I am determined to finish it all by the end of the day so that I can enjoy my weekend without any looming deadlines."

- 'without any looming deadlines' will be used because it is the correct expression indicating that the speaker wants to finish all the work by the end of the day so that there are no impending or imminent deadlines hanging over them. 'Looming deadlines' refers to deadlines that are approaching or about to happen soon, which is the most suitable choice in this context; Like— "Although I have a lot of work to do, I am determined to finish it all by the end of the day so that I can enjoy my weekend without any looming deadlines."

25. D) a **nine days' wonder** (idiom) – a pleasure for a short time थोड़े समय के लिए सुख

- **A dish fit for Gods** (idiom) – Something of very high quality or excellence. देवताओं के लिए उपयुक्त व्यंजन।
- **A house of cards** (idiom) – Something that is very weak and can easily be destroyed or fall apart. बहुत कमजोर और आसानी से नष्ट हो जाने वाला।
- **A bull in a china shop** (idiom) – A person who is clumsy and tends to break things easily, especially in delicate situations. ऐसा व्यक्ति जो अनाड़ी हो और चीजों को आसानी से तोड़ दे।



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