

Unnecessary amendment: On the RTI Act

Amending the RTI Act through the Data Protection Bill is **unwarranted**

That the Right to Information Act and the use of RTIs have enhanced the **accountability** of those in governance in India **goes without saying**. In the last few years there have been attempts to **dilute** the **provisions** of the Act, a **landmark** one that was passed 20 years ago. Clearly, **some** in governance and administration **have** treated the Act and its provisions on **transparency** and disclosure to be **encumbrances**. A significant threat has now emerged in the amendment to Section 8(1)(j) of the Act, which has been introduced in Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. The Act itself is an outcome of K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), a judgment that **upheld** the right of privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act allows government bodies to **withhold** “information which relates to public information” **provided** its disclosure is not related to public interest or **results in** an unnecessary **invasion** of privacy. While doing so, it provides the **safeguard** that if the Public Information Officer or an **appellate** authority finds public interest in disclosing such information, it could still be available. This safeguard is important. Some **information** related to public servants, such as college degrees or caste certificates, **might** be private, but as a recent and controversial case of a **bureaucrat** using a fake caste certificate showed, such information could be released in public interest. Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act amends Section 8(1)(j) by allowing government bodies to simply withhold “personal information” without the safeguard provisions on public interest or other such exceptions.

In a letter to Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw **defended** the amendment, saying that Section 44(3) was aimed at preventing the RTI Act’s “misuse” and was to **harmonise** the requirement of right to privacy and the right to information. He also said that **information** such as salaries of public officials **would** still remain accessible through Section 3 of the DPDP Act. But by amending the RTI Act itself — an outcome that was never the **intention** of K.S. Puttaswamy — and by defining “personal information” **vaguely** in Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act, authorities could deny RTI requests of previously public data by **classifying** them as “personal” — and **lessen** public **scrutiny**. The RTI Act already **harmonises** concerns related to the right to information and privacy by **subjecting** them **to** the question of public interest. Therefore, the **amendment** using the DPDP Act **is** unnecessary and unwarranted. The government must take the concerns of civil society and transparency **activists** and remove the provision amending the RTI Act, in the DPDP Act.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Provided** (conjunction) – only if; on condition that बशर्ते कि

Vocabulary

1. **Amendment** (noun) – modification, change, revision, alteration, update
संशोधन
2. **Amend** (verb) – revise, alter, modify, correct, rectify संशोधित करना
3. **Unwarranted** (adjective) – unjustified, unnecessary, baseless, groundless, uncalled-for अनुचित
4. **Accountability** (noun) – responsibility, answerability, transparency, liability, obligation जवाबदेही
5. **Goes without saying** (phrase) – obvious, evident, clear, self-explanatory, unquestionable यह तो स्पष्ट है
6. **Dilute** (verb) – weaken, reduce, diminish, lessen, water down कमजोर करना
7. **Provision** (noun) – clause, condition, rule, term, requirement प्रावधान
8. **Landmark** (adjective) – historic, significant, notable, momentous, pioneering ऐतिहासिक
9. **Transparency** (noun) – openness, clarity, visibility, honesty, accountability पारदर्शिता
10. **Encumbrance** (noun) – burden, hindrance, obstruction, obstacle, liability बोझ
11. **Uphold** (verb) – support, maintain, confirm, affirm, sustain समर्थन करना
12. **Withhold** (verb) – suppress, keep back, deny, conceal, refuse रोकना
13. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – cause, lead to, bring about, produce, give rise to के परिणामस्वरूप होना
14. **Invasion** (noun) – intrusion, encroachment, infringement, violation, trespass हस्तक्षेप
15. **Safeguard** (noun) – protection, defense, precaution, shield, security सुरक्षा उपाय
16. **Appellate** (adjective) – judicial, review-related, appeal-based, revisional, adjudicative अपीलीय
17. **Bureaucrat** (noun) – official, civil servant, administrator, government officer, public servant नौकरशाह
18. **Defend** (verb) – justify, protect, support, uphold, shield बचाव करना
19. **Harmonise** (verb) – coordinate, integrate, align, reconcile, standardise सामंजस्य बनाना
20. **Intention** (noun) – purpose, aim, objective, motive, goal इरादा
21. **Vaguely** (adverb) – unclearly, ambiguously, indistinctly, hazily, imprecisely अस्पष्ट रूप से

22. **Classify** (verb) – categorise, label, group, organise, sort वर्गीकृत करना

23. **Lessen** (verb) – reduce, decrease, diminish, curtail, weaken कम करना

24. **Scrutiny** (noun) – inspection, examination, analysis, review, investigation जांच

25. **Subject** (to) (verb) – expose to, make dependent on, base on, bind to, regulate by निर्भर करना

26. **Activist** (noun) – campaigner, reformer, advocate, crusader, supporter कार्यकर्ता

Summary of the Editorial

1. **The RTI Act** has played a **crucial role in enhancing accountability** in Indian governance since its enactment 20 years ago.
2. In recent years, there have been **repeated efforts to dilute the RTI Act**, indicating resistance within administrative circles to transparency.
3. A **new threat** has emerged via **Section 44(3)** of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**, which **amends Section 8(1)(j)** of the RTI Act.
4. The **DPDP Act** stems from the **K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017)**, which upheld the **right to privacy** as a fundamental right under **Article 21**.
5. Under the **original Section 8(1)(j)**, personal information could be withheld **only if** it caused **unnecessary invasion of privacy** and did **not serve public interest**.
6. It also allowed **disclosure in public interest**, at the discretion of the **Public Information Officer or appellate authority**, providing a crucial safeguard.
7. This safeguard enabled disclosure of **sensitive yet important information** — e.g., **fake caste certificates**, which though personal, served **public interest**.
8. The **amendment under Section 44(3)** removes this **safeguard clause**, giving authorities the power to **withhold all personal information** unconditionally.
9. The term "**personal information**" is vaguely defined in the DPDP Act, making the scope for **denial of RTI applications broader** and more ambiguous.
10. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw defended** the amendment, citing the need to prevent misuse of RTI and **balance privacy with transparency**.
11. He claimed that critical data like **salaries of public officials** would still be accessible under **Section 3 of the DPDP Act**.
12. However, critics argue that **altering the RTI Act via another legislation** is problematic and **not aligned with the intent** of the **Puttaswamy verdict**.
13. The RTI Act already contains a **built-in mechanism** to balance the **right to information and the right to privacy** through **public interest tests**.
14. Therefore, the editorial asserts that **amending RTI via the DPDP Act is both unnecessary and unwarranted**, weakening public oversight.
15. It calls upon the government to **heed the concerns of civil society and transparency advocates** and **remove the amendment to the RTI Act** from the DPDP legislation.

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

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Apologetic
 - B. Critical
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Sarcastic
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Concerns over how the new DPDP Act amendment could weaken the RTI Act
 - B. The overall success of the RTI Act in promoting transparency
 - C. The importance of personal data privacy above all else
 - D. The historical evolution of the RTI Act over the last 20 years
3. **What specific safeguard did Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act originally provide before the amendment introduced by the DPDP Act?**
 - A. It allowed the complete protection of personal information of all public servants.
 - B. It ensured no RTI request could access public officials' salary details.
 - C. It allowed disclosure of personal information if it served public interest.
 - D. It restricted all types of personal and public data access permanently.
4. **Which of the following statement(s) can be inferred from the passage?**
 - i. The DPDP Act provides a narrower scope for public disclosure than the original RTI Act.
 - ii. Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act may reduce government accountability.
 - iii. The amendment ensures greater balance between privacy and transparency.
 - A. Only i and ii
 - B. Only ii and iii
 - C. Only i and iii
 - D. All i, ii and iii
5. **According to the passage, which Supreme Court judgment laid the foundation for the DPDP Act by affirming the right to privacy as a fundamental right?**
 - A. Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)
 - B. K.S. Puttaswamy Case (2017)
 - C. Shreya Singhal Case (2015)
 - D. Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975)
6. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

My sister is allergic with peanuts, so be cautious when preparing her meal

 - A. My sister is
 - B. when preparing her meal.
 - C. allergic with peanuts
 - D. so be cautious

7. **Based on the context of the given sentence, select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.**
Siri was feeling _____ after receiving praise from her professor for completing the project ahead of schedule.
A. on top of the world
B. under the weather
C. in the same boat
D. in the dark
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Regal
A. Majestic
B. Modest
C. Ordinary
D. Humble
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase.**
A person who does not believe in the institution of marriage
A. Misogynist
B. Misogamist
C. Masochist
D. Nihilist
10. **In the following sentence the underlined part contains an error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.**
They had a least celebration on her birthday.
A. little
B. less
C. most less
D. lesser
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'opacity' in the given sentence.**
The diminishing and deteriorating visibility in winter leads to the revival of accident cases on the highway.
A. revival
B. diminishing
C. visibility
D. deteriorating
12. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
A) Occasion
B) Privilege
C) Bizzare
D) Definitely
A. B
B. A
C. C

- D. D
13. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
Our team lost the game / only because of / a mistake / with one of our players
A. a mistake
B. Our team lost the game
C. only because of
D. with one of our players
14. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.
My mother is 51 years old, / and my uncle is 48 years old. / So my mother is old than my uncle.
A. and my uncle is 48 years old.
B. My mother is 51 years old,
C. No error
D. So my mother is old than my uncle.
15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.
Her presentation was both informative and _____.
A. entertainer
B. entertaining
C. entertain
D. entertainingly
16. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.
The poet had to draw on his fancy to write all his sonnets.
A. use his memory
B. use his money
C. use his imagination
D. use his clothes
17. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word in brackets to fill in the blank.
The mountain peak offers a breathtaking view, a striking contrast to the _____ (peculiar) scenery below.
A. abnormal
B. beautiful
C. odd
D. ordinary
18. Select the option that rectifies the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.
She tried not to embarras her friend by bringing up the awkward incident at the party.
A. embarrass
B. embarass
C. embarress
D. embarrass
19. Change the following sentence into positive degree.

The dog is the most faithful animal.

- A. The dog is the faithful animal.
- B. The dog is the only faithful animal.
- C. The dog is more useful than any other animal.
- D. No other animal is as faithful as the dog

20. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

Shyam approached an leading psychologist for his treatment of anxiety and depression.

- A. an leading psychologist
- B. Shyam approached
- C. of anxiety and depression.
- D. for his treatment

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.

Speaking is a powerful tool (1) _____ human communication. It allows us to convey thoughts, emotions and ideas to others.

Effective speaking (2) _____ not only the words we choose but also our tone, body language and overall presentation. Public speaking, in particular, can be (3) _____ a skill and an art, enabling individuals to inspire, educate and persuade audiences.

(4) _____ it is a casual conversation with a friend or a formal presentation to a large group, the ability to express (5) _____ clearly and confidently through speaking is a valuable skill that can greatly impact our personal and professional lives.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. on
- B. with
- C. at
- D. for

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. involve
- B. involves
- C. involving
- D. involved

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**

- A. both
- B. until
- C. though
- D. and

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**

- A. Whether
- B. Whereas
- C. Neither

D. Because

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

- A. ourselves
- B. itself
- C. themselves
- D. herself

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Critical

The passage highlights concerns about how the new amendment within the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act could undermine the safeguards of the RTI Act. The author clearly criticizes this move, pointing out that the amendment is “unnecessary and unwarranted.” This demonstrates a critical tone directed at the government’s decision.

A: The passage does not express regret or apology; instead, it is confrontational about the amendment’s negative implications.

C: The passage is clearly engaged with and concerned about the issue, not indifferent or neutral.

D: While critical, the passage does not use sarcasm; it is direct and serious in its critique.

2. A) Concerns over how the new DPDP Act amendment could weaken the RTI Act

The passage focuses on the potential impact of Section 44(3) in the DPDP Act on Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, explaining that this amendment could allow government bodies to withhold important information under the label of “personal information.” The author warns that this diminishes the public’s ability to scrutinize governance, thereby weakening the RTI Act.

B: Although the passage mentions the RTI Act’s importance, the primary focus is on new threats posed by the amendment, not merely on celebrating its success.

C: The passage does recognize privacy rights, but it mainly critiques the amendment for overemphasizing privacy at the cost of transparency and public interest.

D: The passage briefly references the RTI Act’s origin but does not delve into its complete historical evolution; the main emphasis is on the current amendment issue.

3. C) It allowed disclosure of personal information if it served public interest.

Section 8(1)(j) allowed withholding personal information only if its disclosure was not in the public interest or amounted to an unnecessary invasion of privacy.

However, if disclosure served public interest, it could still be made available.

A: Incorrect – The provision was not an absolute protection of personal info.

B: Incorrect – Salary details were always available and not covered under this clause.

D: Incorrect – It never enforced permanent restriction on public data.

4. A) Only i and ii

i: Correct – The new amendment removes the public interest safeguard, making disclosure more restricted.

ii: Correct – By vaguely defining “personal information,” previously accessible data can be withheld, reducing scrutiny.

iii: Incorrect – The author argues the amendment was not required and the RTI Act already maintained a balance.

5. B) K.S. Puttaswamy Case (2017)

The passage explicitly mentions that the DPDP Act is an outcome of the K.S. Puttaswamy (2017) judgment, which held privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.

A: Kesavananda case dealt with the basic structure doctrine, not privacy.

C: Shreya Singhal was related to freedom of speech and Section 66A of IT Act.

D: Indira Gandhi case was about election law and constitutional amendments, not privacy.

6. 'C) allergic with peanuts' के स्थान पर '**allergic to peanuts**' का use होगा क्योंकि adjective 'allergic' के साथ हमेशा preposition 'to' का use होता है, न कि 'with' का। जैसे— She is allergic to dust.

'allergic to peanuts' will be used instead of 'allergic with peanuts' because the adjective 'allergic' is always followed by the preposition 'to' and not 'with.' For example— Correct: She is allergic to dust.

7. A) 'on top of the world' का use होगा क्योंकि यहां, पूरे context में, Siri को उसके professor द्वारा प्रशंसा प्राप्त होने पर उसकी भावनाओं की व्याख्या की जा रही है, जो परियोजना को समय से पहले पूरा करने के लिए है। 'On top of the world' का अर्थ होता है बेहद खुश होना या बहुत अच्छा महसूस करना, जो कि Siri की स्थिति को सबसे अच्छा दर्शाता है।

'on top of the world' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is interpreting Siri's emotions upon receiving praise from her professor for completing the project ahead of schedule. 'On top of the world' means feeling extremely happy or very good, which best describes Siri's condition. The emotions associated with the other options do not fit in this context.

8. A) **Regal** (adjective) – Relating to royalty; grand, splendid, majestic. राजसी, शाही
SYNONYM: Majestic (adjective) – Having or showing impressive beauty or dignity; grand, noble. भव्य, शानदार

- **Modest** (adjective) – Humble, simple, unassuming; not grand or royal. विनम्र, साधारण
- **Ordinary** (adjective) – Common, normal, not special. साधारण, सामान्य
- **Humble** (adjective) – Having or showing modesty; not grand or regal. विनम्र, दीन

9. B) **Misogamist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in the institution of marriage. विवाह संस्था में विश्वास न रखने वाला व्यक्ति

- **Misogynist** (noun) – A person who dislikes or is strongly prejudiced against women. महिलाओं से घृणा करने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Misogamist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in the institution of marriage. विवाह संस्था में विश्वास न रखने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Masochist** (noun) – A person who derives pleasure, especially sexual gratification, from their own pain or humiliation. दुख या अपमान से आनंद पाने वाला व्यक्ति

10. A) 'a least' के बदले 'little' का use होगा क्योंकि 'least' का use Superlative Degree में होता है और यहाँ Positive Degree की आवश्यकता है। 'little' का अर्थ है 'बहुत कम' जो वाक्य के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त है; जैसे— They had a little celebration on her birthday.
'Little' will be used instead of 'a least' because 'least' is used in the Superlative Degree, whereas here we need the Positive Degree. 'Little' means 'very less,' which fits the context of the sentence; Like— They had a little celebration on her birthday.
11. C) **Opacity** (noun) – The quality of not being transparent or clear, lack of transparency, obscurity. अस्पष्टता
Antonym: Visibility (noun) – The state of being able to see or be seen, clarity, transparency. दृश्यता, स्पष्टता
- **Diminishing** (adjective) – Becoming less, reducing, decreasing. कम हो रहा है
 - **Visibility** (noun) – The ability to see or be seen; clarity or transparency. दृश्यता, स्पष्टता
 - **Deteriorating** (adjective) – Becoming worse, declining, degrading. बिगड़ता हुआ
12. C) The incorrectly spelt word is C) **Bizzare**. The correct spelling is **Bizarre**, which means "very strange or unusual" (बहुत अजीब या असामान्य).
13. D) 'with' के बदले 'by' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'mistake' का कारण 'one of our players' है, जो एक व्यक्ति है। 'by' का use कर्ता (agent) को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, जबकि 'with' का use साधन (instrument) को दर्शाने के लिए होता है; जैसे— The mistake was made by the player (not 'with').
'by' will be used instead of 'with' because here the cause of the 'mistake' is 'one of our players,' which is a person. 'By' is used to indicate the doer (agent), while 'with' is used to indicate the instrument; Like— The mistake was made by the player (not 'with').
14. D) 'old' के बदले 'older' का use होगा क्योंकि Comparative Degree में Adjective के साथ '-er' लगता है जब दो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं की तुलना की जाती है; जैसे— Ram is taller than Shyam.
'older' will be used instead of 'old' because in Comparative Degree, '-er' is added with the Adjective when comparing two persons or things; Like— Ram is taller than Shyam.
15. B) '**Entertaining**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह "informative and entertaining" के रूप में एक समानांतर संरचना प्रदान करता है। यहाँ दोनों adjectives (informative और entertaining) एक साथ use किए जा रहे हैं, जो उसके presentation की विशेषताएँ बता रहे हैं। 'Entertainer': यह एक noun है, जिसका अर्थ है एक व्यक्ति जो मनोरंजन करता है। यह यहाँ गलत है क्योंकि वाक्य में विशेषण की आवश्यकता है। 'Entertain': यह verb है, और यहाँ वाक्य में एक विशेषण की आवश्यकता है, इसलिए यह गलत है। 'Entertainingly': यह adverb है और इसका use किसी क्रिया को modify करने के लिए होता है। चूँकि यहाँ adjective की आवश्यकता है, यह विकल्प भी सही नहीं है।

Entertaining' will be used because it creates a parallel structure with 'informative.' The sentence describes the qualities of her presentation, and both adjectives (informative and entertaining) complement each other. 'Entertainer': This is a noun, meaning someone who entertains, and it doesn't fit here because the sentence requires an adjective. 'Entertain': This is a verb, and the blank requires an adjective to describe the presentation, making this option incorrect.

'Entertainingly': This is an adverb, which is used to modify a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Since the sentence needs an adjective, this option is also incorrect.

16. C) **Draw on his fancy** – Use his imagination (अपनी कल्पना का use करना)

17. D) **Peculiar** (adjective) – Strange, odd, unusual, distinctive. असामान्य

Antonym: Ordinary (adjective) – Normal, usual, common, not special. सामान्य

- **Abnormal** (adjective) – Not typical, unusual, deviating from what is normal. असामान्य
- **Beautiful** (adjective) – Pleasing the senses, attractive. सुंदर
- **Odd** (adjective) – Strange, unusual, or not usual. अजीब

18. A) The correct spelling of the incorrectly spelt word is '**embarrass**', which means "to cause someone to feel awkward, self-conscious, or ashamed." In Hindi, it means "शर्मिंदा करना".

19. D) No other animal is as faithful as the dog.

20. A) 'an leading psychologist' के बदले 'a leading psychologist' का use होगा क्योंकि "leading" का उच्चारण consonant sound 'L' से शुरू होता है। ऐसे में "an" का use गलत है, और इसके स्थान पर "a" का use होना चाहिए। सही होगा: "Shyam approached a leading psychologist for his treatment of anxiety and depression."

The phrase "**an leading psychologist**" is incorrect because the word "leading" begins with a consonant sound 'L'. The article "an" is used before words that begin with a vowel sound, not a consonant sound. Here, "a" should replace "an". The correct sentence will be: "Shyam approached a leading psychologist for his treatment of anxiety and depression."

21. D) **For** का use होगा क्योंकि "for" का अर्थ है किसी उद्देश्य या लाभ को दर्शाना। इस sentence में mention है कि "Speaking is a powerful tool for human communication," जिसका अर्थ है कि बोलना मानव संचार के लिए एक शक्तिशाली उपकरण है। जबकि 'on' विषय या आधार का संकेत देता है, 'with' किसी चीज़ के साथ होने का सुझाव देता है, और 'at' स्थान या समय को संदर्भित करता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'For' will be used because it indicates purpose or benefit. The sentence states "Speaking is a powerful tool for human communication," meaning that speaking serves as a powerful medium for communication. Whereas 'on' refers to a topic, 'with' suggests being accompanied by something, and 'at' refers to location or time, which do not fit in this context.

22. B) '**Involves**' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह present tense में singular subject "Effective speaking" के साथ सही तरीके से मेल खाता है। 'Effective speaking' एक singular subject है, और present indefinite tense में singular subject के साथ verb में 's/es' जोड़ना आवश्यक होता है। 'Involve' एक plural verb है, जो इस context में grammatically incorrect है। 'Involving' participle form है और यहाँ verb के रूप में फिट नहीं होता। 'Involved' past participle है, जो यहाँ tense और grammatical structure के अनुसार सही नहीं है।

'**Involves**' will be used because it correctly agrees with the singular subject "Effective speaking" in the present tense. 'Effective speaking' is a singular subject, and in the present simple tense, the verb must end in 's/es' to match a singular subject. 'Involve' is a plural verb, which is grammatically incorrect in this context. 'Involving' is a participle form and doesn't work as the main verb here. 'Involved' is the past participle form, which doesn't align with the tense or grammatical structure required in this context.

23. A) **Both** का use होगा क्योंकि "both" का अर्थ है दो चीजों को जोड़ना या इंगित करना। 'Both' का use होगा क्योंकि यह "both...and" structure में दो चीजों (skill और art) को एक साथ जोड़ने के लिए use होता है। "Until" एक time-related conjunction है (जैसे, Wait until 5 PM), लेकिन यहाँ समय का कोई reference नहीं है। "Though" एक contrast conjunction है (जैसे, Though it rained, we went out), लेकिन यहाँ कोई विरोधाभास नहीं दिखाना है। "And" अकेले redundant हो जाता है क्योंकि बाद में "and" पहले से ही use हुआ है।

Both will be used because it indicates the connection of two elements. The sentence mentions that public speaking is considered "a skill" and "an art," making 'both' the appropriate choice. 'Until' means "up to the time that," which suggests a time limit and does not fit the sentence's context. 'Though' means "however," which implies contrast, irrelevant in this context. 'And' merely connects words, but 'both' emphasizes the duality, making it more fitting.

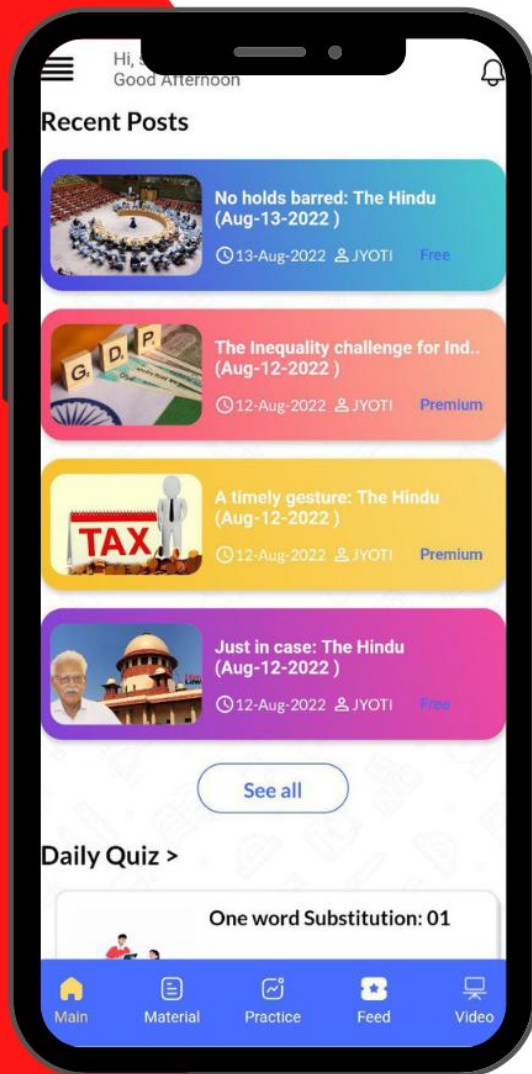
24. A) **Whether** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "चाहे यह हो या वह हो।" यहाँ वाक्य में दो स्थितियों का उल्लेख किया गया है—एक "casual conversation" और दूसरा "formal presentation," और यह दिखाने के लिए कि दोनों स्थितियाँ सही हैं, 'Whether' का use किया जाएगा। 'Whereas' का अर्थ होता है "जबकि," जो तुलना या विरोधाभास दिखाने के लिए use किया जाता है, लेकिन यहाँ ऐसा कोई विरोधाभास नहीं है। 'Neither' का अर्थ है "न तो," जो इस वाक्य के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Because' का अर्थ है "क्योंकि," जो किसी कारण को व्यक्त करता है, लेकिन यहाँ कारण व्यक्त नहीं किया जा रहा है।

Whether will be used because it means "in case either of the two." In the sentence, two situations are mentioned—one being a casual conversation and the other a formal presentation. To indicate that both are being considered, 'Whether' fits appropriately.

'Whereas' means "while on the contrary," which is used for comparisons or contrasts, but no such contrast exists here. 'Neither' means "not either," which doesn't suit the context of this sentence. 'Because' expresses a reason, but no reason is being conveyed here.

25. A) **'ourselves'** का use सही है क्योंकि यहाँ sentence में 'हमारी' ability का ज़िक्र हो रहा है। Sentence का अर्थ है कि हम अपनी बात को स्पष्ट और आत्मविश्वास के साथ व्यक्त कर सकते हैं। 'itself' का अर्थ 'वह स्वयं' है, 'themselves' का अर्थ 'वे स्वयं' है, और 'herself' का अर्थ 'वह (स्त्री) स्वयं' है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Ourselves' is the correct answer because the sentence refers to "our" ability to express "ourselves" clearly and confidently. 'Itself' refers to "itself," 'themselves' refers to "they themselves," and 'herself' refers to "she herself," which do not fit the context here. Hence, 'ourselves' is the appropriate choice.



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