

## RTI disclosure isn't ideal curiosity, it enables good governance

The Economic Survey has done a **commendable** job in **underlining** the country's **resilience** in an increasingly uncertain world. It has **highlighted** the **deficits** that could **stall** the growth **momentum** and rightly **pointed out** that increasing innovation, **scaling up** the country's manufacturing **ecosystem**, and **enhancing** export **competitiveness** **will** require the government to become an enabler — not a **heavy-handed** controller. The **Survey**, however, **is misplaced** in interpreting civic **scrutiny** of governance as **antithetical** to the entrepreneurial spirit. It **calls for** a re-examination of the Right to Information Act, particularly the **provisions** related to the disclosure of **deliberations** that inform policymaking. The **observation** that such disclosures "unduly **constrain** governance" **is** a narrow reading of administrative efficiency. Public **access** to documents **illuminates** the evolution of a policy and provides a context for why certain ideas were accepted or rejected. They are a precious tool for citizens to force the **bureaucracy** to share information concerning public policy and the delivery of services and goods. A **transparent** bureaucracy is, in turn, fundamental to a **stable**, predictable, and fair economic environment.

By reducing information **asymmetry** between citizens and state, the RTI has redefined the relationship between the two. The argumentative **ethos** **fostered** by the disclosure provisions **has** been **critical** to **keeping bureaucrats on their toes**. They are not "tools for ideal disclosure", as the Survey notes. The law's **roles** in **exposing** major scams — the Vyapam scam and the Adarsh Housing Society scam, **for instance** — **is** a **testimony to** its role as a governance **enhancer**. The Act has also been used to question the RBI during the banking scams. The financial probity **catalysed** the Supreme Court's **verdicts** in the Girish Mittal (2021) and Jayantilal Mistry (2016) cases, **wherein** the SC held the Central Bank must disclose names of willful loan defaulters and details of Non-Performing Assets of public sector banks. At the same time, however, the Act's enabling provisions have been **substantially attenuated** in recent years. The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act**, which **came into force** last year, **exempts** from disclosure "information which relates to personal information.. which has no relationship to any public activity or interest". The government has **reportedly** also tried to **evade** public scrutiny by claiming it does not have data on migrant workers who died during Covid , paper leaks in competitive exams and on farmers' suicides.

The Economic Survey does **acknowledge** that the RTI Act is a "powerful tool for reform". The government would do well to **go by** the Survey's overall governance-centred ethos, and not **heed** the suggestion to re-examine RTI.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

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| <p>1. <b>Commendable</b> (adjective) – admirable, praiseworthy, meritorious, laudable, exemplary सराहनीय</p> <p>2. <b>Underline</b> (verb) – emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, underscore रेखांकित करना/महत्व देना</p> <p>3. <b>Resilience</b> (noun) – flexibility, toughness, adaptability, buoyancy, strength लचीलापन/जुझारूपन</p> <p>4. <b>Highlight</b> (verb) – spotlight, accent, feature, underline, showcase प्रमुखता से दिखाना</p> <p>5. <b>Deficit</b> (noun) – shortfall, shortage, deficiency, lack, inadequacy घाटा/कमी</p> <p>6. <b>Stall</b> (verb) – obstruct, hinder, delay, impede, halt गति रोकना</p> <p>7. <b>Momentum</b> (noun) – impetus, energy, drive, thrust, speed गति/वेग</p> <p>8. <b>Point out</b> (phrasal verb) – to direct someone's attention to a particular fact or person इशारा करना/बताना</p> <p>9. <b>Scale up</b> (phrasal verb) – to increase the size, amount, or importance of something, usually an enterprise or process स्तर बढ़ाना</p> <p>10. <b>Ecosystem</b> (noun) – community of living organisms interacting with each other and</p> | <p>their physical environment पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र</p> <p>11. <b>Competitiveness</b> (noun) – ambition, rivalry, edge, proficiency, capability प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता</p> <p>12. <b>Heavy-handed</b> (adjective) – oppressive, tyrannical, autocratic, domineering, harsh कठोर/निरंकुश</p> <p>13. <b>Misplaced</b> (adjective) – misguided, ill-advised, inappropriate, erroneous, unfitting गलत जगह पर लगा हुआ/अनुचित</p> <p>14. <b>Scrutiny</b> (noun) – inspection, examination, analysis, audit, investigation सूक्ष्म परीक्षण</p> <p>15. <b>Antithetical</b> (adjective) – contradictory, opposed, contrary, polarized, clashing विपरीत/विरोधी</p> <p>16. <b>Call for</b> (phrasal verb) – to publicly ask for something to happen or to need something मांग करना/आवश्यकता होना</p> <p>17. <b>Provision</b> (noun) – clause, condition, qualification, requirement, stipulation प्रावधान</p> <p>18. <b>Deliberation</b> (noun) – discussion, contemplation, meditation, reflection, debate विचार-विमर्श</p> <p>19. <b>Constrain</b> (verb) – restrict, curb, limit, restrain, inhibit बाध्य करना/रोकना</p> |
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20. **Illuminate** (verb) – clarify, elucidate, explain, brighten, reveal स्पष्ट करना/प्रकाश डालना
21. **Bureaucracy** (noun) – administration, officialdom, red tape, government, directorate नौकरशाही
22. **Transparent** (adjective) – clear, crystal, candid, manifest, lucid पारदर्शी
23. **Stable** (adjective) – steady, constant, firm, secure, steadfast स्थिर
24. **Asymmetry** (noun) – imbalance, lopsidedness, unevenness, disparity, inequality विषमता
25. **Ethos** (noun) – spirit, character, atmosphere, climate, ideology लोकाचार/प्रकृति
26. **Foster** (verb) – encourage, promote, nurture, cultivate, stimulate बढ़ावा देना
27. **Critical** (adjective) – vital, crucial, essential, pivotal, decisive महत्वपूर्ण
28. **Keep something/someone on their toes** (idiom) – making someone stay alert and ready for any eventuality or to work hard सतर्क रखना
29. **Expose** (verb) – reveal, uncover, disclose, unmask, unveil बेनकाब करना
30. **For instance** (phrase) – as an example, to illustrate, such as, by way of illustration उदाहरण के लिए
31. **Testimony** (to) (noun) – evidence or proof of something प्रमाण/गवाही
32. **Enhancer** (noun) – improver, booster, catalyst, augmentor, supplement सुधारक/बढ़ाने वाला
33. **Catalyse** (verb) – accelerate, stimulate, spark, activate, precipitate प्रेरित करना/तेज करना
34. **Verdict** (noun) – judgment, decision, decree, ruling, sentence निर्णय
35. **Wherein** (adverb) – in which, in where, where, by which, during which जिसमें
36. **Substantially** (adverb) – considerably, significantly, largely, greatly, markedly काफी हद तक
37. **Attenuate** (verb) – weaken, reduce, diminish, sap, enervate कमजोर करना
38. **Come into force** (phrase) – when a law or rule starts to be applied or becomes active लागू होना
39. **Exempt** (verb) – excuse, free, release, spare, absolve छूट देना
40. **Reportedly** (adverb) – allegedly, supposedly, purportedly, ostensibly, seemingly कथित तौर पर

41. **Evade** (verb) – avoid, dodge, elude, bypass,  
shun बचना/टालना

42. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept,  
recognize, grant, concede स्वीकार करना

43. **Go by** (phrasal verb) – to follow or be  
guided by something अनुसरण करना

44. **Heed** (verb) – follow, obey, observe, mind,  
notice ध्यान देना/मानना

### Summary of the Editorial

1. The Economic Survey rightly highlights India's resilience amid global uncertainty and acknowledges structural challenges to growth.
2. It stresses that innovation, manufacturing growth, and export competitiveness need the government to act as an enabler rather than a controller.
3. However, the Survey misreads civic scrutiny as being hostile to entrepreneurship and governance efficiency.
4. It controversially suggests re-examining the Right to Information Act, especially provisions on disclosure of policy deliberations.
5. The claim that disclosure "unduly constrains governance" reflects a narrow understanding of administrative efficiency.
6. Public access to documents helps citizens understand how policies evolve and why certain decisions are made or rejected.
7. RTI compels the bureaucracy to share information on public policy and service delivery.
8. Transparency in governance is essential for a stable, predictable, and fair economic environment.
9. RTI has reduced information asymmetry and redefined the relationship between citizens and the state.
10. Disclosure provisions foster an argumentative democratic ethos that keeps bureaucrats accountable.
11. RTI has played a key role in exposing major scams such as Vyapam and Adarsh Housing Society.
12. It has also enabled scrutiny of financial irregularities, including banking scams and RBI disclosures.
13. Supreme Court verdicts on loan defaulters and NPAs reaffirm RTI's role in ensuring financial probity.
14. In recent years, RTI's effectiveness has been weakened by legal and administrative curbs, including data protection exemptions.
15. Though the Survey calls RTI a powerful reform tool, the government should strengthen transparency instead of reconsidering the Act.

**Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based****[Editorial page]****1. What is the main theme of the passage?**

- A. Economic reforms are sufficient without transparency mechanisms
- B. Civic scrutiny through RTI strengthens governance and economic stability
- C. Bureaucratic efficiency is hindered by excessive public participation in leading area
- D. Judicial interventions have weakened executive authority

**2. Q. In the sentence**

“Public access to documents illuminates the evolution of a policy and provides a context for why certain ideas were accepted or rejected.”

the clause “why certain ideas were accepted or rejected” functions as which type of clause?

- A. Noun clause functioning as object
- B. Adjective clause modifying policy
- C. Adverb clause expressing reason
- D. Independent clause adding emphasis

**3. In the sentence**

“A transparent bureaucracy is, in turn, fundamental to a stable, predictable, and fair economic environment.”

the word “fundamental” is grammatically functioning as which part of speech?

- A. Predicate adjective describing bureaucracy
- B. Attributive adjective modifying environment
- C. Abstract noun denoting essential value
- D. Adverb qualifying degree of stability

**4. Why does the passage argue that RTI disclosures strengthen governance?**

- A. They discourage entrepreneurship by delaying administrative decisions
- B. They replace policymaking with judicial oversight mechanisms
- C. They reduce information asymmetry and ensure bureaucracy
- D. They prioritize secrecy over transparency within institutions

**5. What does the author mainly criticize in the Economic Survey’s stance?**

- A. It misreads civic scrutiny as obstacle to entrepreneurship
- B. It supports unrestricted secrecy in all policy deliberations
- C. It completely rejects transparency as governance principle central
- D. It ignores judicial rulings mandating financial disclosure norms

**6. Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**

Something which cannot be believed.

- A. Inevitable
- B. Ineffable
- C. Incredible
- D. Ineluctable

**7. Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**

The dough began to **bloat** after being left in the sun.

- A. Expand
- B. Shrink
- C. Inflate

- D. Enlarge
8. **Identify the correctly spelled word.**
- A. Hazadrous
  - B. Hazaradous
  - C. Hazardous
  - D. Hazerdous
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word “Eager.”**
- A. Torpid
  - B. Diffident
  - C. Avid
  - D. Phlegmatic
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
- Mrs. Leela opened the window.
- A. The window is opened by Mrs. Leela.
  - B. The window was being opened by Mrs. Leela.
  - C. The window is being opened by Mrs. Leela.
  - D. The window was opened by Mrs. Leela.
11. **A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.**
- She said, “I enjoy painting.”
- A. She said that she enjoys painting.
  - B. She said that she enjoyed painting
  - C. She said she was enjoying painting.
  - D. She said that she had enjoyed painting.
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- Keep him \_\_\_\_\_ arm's length.
- A. at
  - B. by
  - C. for
  - D. off
13. **Identify the word in this sentence that contains an error:**
- One must keep his promises.
- A. One
  - B. must keep
  - C. his promises.
  - D. No error
14. **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. My husband would not be back until late and I decided to settle down in a comfortable chair and read a book.
  - B. I put the children to bed early and prepared some coffee.
  - C. It had been a tiring day and I was looking forward to a quiet evening.
  - D. Soon I was sitting comfortably with a cup of coffee and the book.
- A. CBDA

B. CABD

C. BADC

D. DCAB

15. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**

The monk preferred a solitary life in the mountains.

A. Gregarious

B. Secluded

C. Lonesome

D. Reticent

16. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required.'**

These days I ate lots of fruits and green vegetables to boost my immunity.

A. eating

B. No substitution required

C. eat

D. eaten

17. **Choose the sentence that uses a homonym of the underlined word:**

She tied a (bow) around the gift.

A. He drew the bow and released the arrow.

B. The ribbon bow matched the wrapping paper.

C. She placed a neat bow on the bouquet.

D. The dress had a satin bow at the waist.

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks.**

I did not \_\_\_\_\_ that he would \_\_\_\_\_ the offer.

A. bait; bate

B. bate; bait

C. except; accept

D. expect; accept

19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Sham."**

A. Spurious

B. Perspicuous

C. Obdurate

D. Ubiquitous

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

Cut one's teeth

A. Gain early experience

B. Lose interest quickly

C. Argue loudly always

D. Travel frequently abroad

**Comprehension:**

The softest burdens rest the heaviest on the heart. Nothing proves this more beautifully than the moment one carries a baby. Each time I lift a little one, the world around me seems to take a deep breath and slow its pace. The clock forgets its duty, my thoughts stop quarrelling (1) \_\_\_\_\_ one another, and a strange peace arrives, as if on tiptoe. A tiny tot (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in cotton



and innocence becomes the most natural stress reliever life has invented. The art of holding a baby, I realised, begins even before the arms rise. My steps soften, my voice settles into a whisper, and something within reminds me that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ is a language best spoken quietly. The infant, warm and plump, fits into the flex of my arm with an (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that makes me believe nature rehearsed this pose for centuries. Even the most serious face melts into an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ smile.

21. **What should come in the place of 1?**

- A. about
- B. over
- C. on
- D. with

22. **What should come in the place of 2?**

- A. scattered
- B. decorated
- C. wrapped
- D. preserved

23. **What should come in the place of 3?**

- A. discipline
- B. authority
- C. tenderness
- D. obedience

24. **What should come in the place of 4?**

- A. attempt
- B. hesitation
- C. struggle
- D. ease

25. **What should come in the place of 5?**

- A. deliberate
- B. Mechanical
- C. forced
- D. involuntary

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

- B) Civic scrutiny through RTI strengthens governance and economic stability**  
 The passage consistently argues that RTI promotes transparency, accountability, and a stable economic environment, countering the view that it constrains governance.  
 A. Incorrect; the passage stresses transparency as essential.  
 C. Incorrect; this is the Survey's view, not the author's.  
 D. Incorrect; court cases are cited to show RTI's positive impact, not institutional weakening.
- A) Noun clause functioning as object**  
 The clause answers "provides a context for what?", functioning as the object of the preposition "for", which makes it a noun clause.  
 B: Adjective clauses modify nouns directly; this clause explains context, not policy.  
 C: Though it contains "why," it does not modify a verb; it completes a noun phrase.  
 D: It cannot stand alone meaningfully, so it is not independent.
- A) Predicate adjective describing bureaucracy**  
 The subject is "A transparent bureaucracy"  
 The verb is "is" (a linking verb)  
 The word "fundamental" comes after the linking verb and describes the subject. So, "fundamental" functions as a predicate adjective, not a noun or adverb.  
 B. Attributive adjective modifying environment  
 Attributive adjectives come before nouns (e.g., "a fundamental principle"). Here, "fundamental" does not modify "environment."  
 C. Abstract noun denoting essential value  
 "Fundamental" would need to be used as a noun (e.g., "a fundamental of economics"), which it is not here.  
 D. Adverb qualifying degree of stability  
 Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs; "fundamental" modifies a noun via a linking verb.
- C) They reduce information asymmetry and ensure bureaucracy**  
 The passage emphasizes that RTI reduces information asymmetry between citizens and the state, making the bureaucracy more answerable.  
 B: RTI supports policymaking transparency, not judicial takeover.  
 A: The passage rejects the idea that RTI harms entrepreneurship.  
 D: RTI promotes transparency, not secrecy.
- A) It misreads civic scrutiny as obstacle to entrepreneurship**  
 The author argues that the Survey wrongly treats civic scrutiny through RTI as harmful to entrepreneurial and administrative efficiency.  
 B: The Survey does not argue for total secrecy.  
 C: It acknowledges transparency as valuable, calling RTI powerful.  
 D: Judicial rulings are cited to strengthen RTI's importance, not ignored.

6. C) **Incredible** (adjective) – Something which cannot be believed.
- **Inevitable** (adjective) – Something that is certain to happen and unavoidable. अवश्यभावी
  - **Ineffable** (adjective) – Something too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words. अवर्णनीय
  - **Ineluctable** (adjective) – Not able to be avoided or changed; inevitable. अनिवार्य
7. B) **Bloat** (verb) – Inflate, swell, balloon, expand, enlarge. फूलना / बढ़ना  
Antonym: **Shrink** (verb) – Contract, compress, wither, reduce in size. सिकुड़ना / घटाना
- **Expand** (verb) – Enlarge, broaden, stretch. फैलना / विस्तारित करना
  - **Inflate** (verb) – Fill with air, expand, swell. फुलाना
  - **Enlarge** (verb) – Make bigger, amplify, magnify. बढ़ाना / विस्तार करना
8. C) **Hazardous** – Correct spelling
- **Hazardous** (adjective) – Dangerous, risky, unsafe. जोखिम भरा
9. C) **Eager** (adjective) – Showing keen interest, enthusiasm, or readiness. उत्सुक  
Synonym: **Avid** (adjective) – Having a strong desire or intense enthusiasm for something. अत्यधिक इच्छा रखने वाला
- **Torpid** – Sluggish or inactive. सुस्त
  - **Diffident** – Lacking confidence; shy. आत्मविश्वास की कमी वाला
  - **Phlegmatic** – Calm and unemotional; lacking excitement. निष्क्रिय स्वभाव का
10. D) **The window was opened by Mrs. Leela**  
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Mrs. Leela" Subject है, "opened" Verb (Past Simple) है और "the window" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The window" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was opened" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by Mrs. Leela" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "Mrs. Leela" (Subject), "opened" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the window" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The window" (Subject), "was opened" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "by Mrs. Leela".
11. B) **She said that she enjoyed painting.**  
Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb (said) के बाद "that" जोड़ा जाता है और Reported Speech का Tense एक कदम पीछे कर दिया जाता है। यहाँ Direct Speech में "I enjoy painting" (Simple Present) है, जिसे Indirect में बदलते समय Simple Past "enjoyed" में बदला गया है। "I" को "she" में परिवर्तित किया गया है ताकि Subject से मेल खाए। इसलिए सही उत्तर है – "She said that she enjoyed painting."

- To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the conjunction “that” is added after the reporting verb (said), and the tense of the reported speech is shifted one step back. Here, “I enjoy painting” (Simple Present) in Direct Speech becomes “enjoyed” (Simple Past) in Indirect Speech. The pronoun “I” is changed to “she” to agree with the subject. Hence, the correct answer is “She said that she enjoyed painting.”
12. A) **at** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस वाक्यांश का सही और प्रचलित रूप है “Keep him at arm's length.” यह एक मुहावरेदार प्रयोग है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी को अपने से दूरी पर रखना या अधिक घनिष्ठ संबंध से बचना। दिए गए विकल्पों में केवल 'at' ही इस fixed expression के साथ सही बैठता है।
- 'at' should be used because the correct idiomatic expression is “Keep him at arm's length.” It means to maintain a safe distance from someone, either emotionally or socially. Among the given options, only 'at' appropriately fits this fixed phrase.
13. C) 'his' के बदले 'one's' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'one' का possessive pronoun हमेशा 'one's' होता है; जैसे— One must do one's duty.
- 'one's' will be used instead of 'his' because pronoun agreement requires the possessive form of 'one'; like— One should follow one's principles.
14. B) **CABD**  
It had been a tiring day and I was looking forward to a quiet evening. My husband would not be back until late and I decided to settle down in a comfortable chair and read a book I put the children to bed early and prepared some coffee Soon I was sitting comfortably with a cup of coffee and the book.
15. A) **Solitary** (adjective) – Single, lone, only, one, sole. एकमात्र / एकांतप्रिय  
Antonym: **Gregarious** (adjective) – Fond of company; sociable, outgoing, convivial. मिलनसार / समाजप्रिय
- **Secluded** (adjective) – Isolated, hidden, private, remote. एकांत / एकाकी
  - **Lonesome** (adjective) – Lonely, desolate, forlorn. अकेला / उदास
  - **Reticent** (adjective) – Reserved, quiet, uncommunicative. मौन / संकोची
16. C) 'ate' के बदले 'eat' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य Present Tense में है और 'These days' से यह इंगित होता है कि क्रिया वर्तमान समय में निरंतर चल रही है। अतः Simple Present Tense में Verb का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— I eat lots of fruits and green vegetables to boost my immunity.
- 'eat' will be used instead of 'ate' because the sentence is in the Present Tense, and 'These days' indicates that the action is ongoing in the present time. Hence, the Verb will be in Simple Present Tense; Like— I eat lots of fruits and green vegetables to boost my immunity.
17. A) He drew the bow and released the arrow.  
Homonym: same spelling/pronunciation, different meaning.  
In the question, bow = ribbon decoration on a gift.  
In option 1, bow = a weapon for archery → different meaning, so it's the correct homonym use.  
Options 2, 3, 4 use bow in the same ribbon sense.  
Hindi (संक्षेप):

Homonym: एक ही उच्चारण, अलग अर्थ।

प्रश्न में bow = रिबन की गाँठ; विकल्प 1 में bow = तीर-कमान (हथियार) → अर्थ अलग, इसलिए यही सही उत्तर है।

विकल्प 2, 3, 4 में वही रिबन-वाला अर्थ है।

18. D) '**Expect**' का use होगा क्योंकि "expect" का अर्थ होता है किसी घटना या कार्य के होने की आशा या अनुमान लगाना। यहाँ sentence में mention है कि मैंने यह नहीं सोचा था कि वह इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करेगा। 'Accept' का use होगा क्योंकि "accept" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को स्वीकार करना।

जबकि: 'Bait' का अर्थ है प्रलोभन देना। 'Bate' का अर्थ है कम करना या घटाना। 'Except' का अर्थ है छोड़कर, जो यहाँ context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Expect' will be used because it means to anticipate or think that something will happen. The sentence suggests that the speaker did not think he would accept the offer. 'Accept' will be used because it means to agree to or take something offered. 'Bait' means to lure or entice. 'Bate' means to reduce or lessen. 'Except' means excluding, which is not contextually correct here.

19. A) **Sham** (adjective) – Not genuine; false, counterfeit, or pretending to be real.

नकली

Synonym: **Spurious** (adjective) – Lacking authenticity or validity; false or counterfeit. असत्य / नकली

- **Perspicuous** (adjective) – Clearly expressed or easily understood. स्पष्ट
- **Obdurate** (adjective) – Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion. हठी
- **Ubiquitous** (adjective) – Present, appearing, or found everywhere. सर्वव्यापी

20. A) **Cut one's teeth** (idiom) – Gain early experience किसी क्षेत्र में पहला अनुभव प्राप्त करना

21. D) **with** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब होता है के साथ, जो thoughts के बीच natural interaction दिखाता है। वाक्य है "my thoughts stop quarrelling \_\_\_ one another". Other options: about मतलब के बारे में, topic दिखाता है और interaction नहीं; over debate या disagreement दिखाता है, context में गलत; on grammar के हिसाब से गलत।

With is correct because it shows proper interaction between thoughts. About refers to a topic, over implies debate, and on is grammatically wrong

22. C) **wrapped** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है हल्के से ढका हुआ। वाक्य में "a tiny tot \_\_\_ in cotton and innocence" में बच्चे को नरमी और देखभाल के साथ ढके जाने का भाव है।

"Wrapped in cotton" एक natural और commonly used expression है, खासकर baby के context में Scattered का मतलब बिखरा हुआ होता है, जो यहाँ अर्थपूर्ण नहीं है। Decorated का अर्थ सजाया हुआ होता है, जो इस शांत और भावनात्मक context में सही नहीं बैठता। Preserved का अर्थ सुरक्षित रखना होता है, जो यहाँ sentence के meaning से match नहीं करता। Therefore, wrapped ही grammar और context दोनों के हिसाब से सही विकल्प है।

- C) wrapped is correct because it means covered gently. In the sentence "a tiny tot \_\_\_ in cotton and innocence", the idea is of a baby being softly covered, showing care and tenderness. "Wrapped in cotton" is a natural and commonly used expression, especially

in the context of babies. Scattered means spread irregularly, which does not suit the context. Decorated means ornamented, which is inappropriate here. Preserved means kept safe from damage or decay, which does not fit the meaning of the sentence

23. C) **tenderness** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब है कोमलता, softness और प्यार। वाक्य है:

“something within reminds me that \_\_\_ is a language best spoken quietly.” यहाँ उस emotion की बात हो रही है जो बच्चे के प्रति nurturing, gentle और soft होती है। Tenderness यहाँ perfectly fit करता है क्योंकि यह softly spoken emotion को describe करता है। Discipline, authority या obedience context में harsh, rigid या wrong लगते, लेकिन tenderness gentle, loving और quietly expressed emotion को दर्शाता है।

- C) tenderness is correct because it represents gentle, loving emotions that are best expressed softly. It perfectly captures the calm, nurturing feeling one experiences while holding a baby, making the sentence convey both meaning and emotion naturally.

24. D) **ease** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है effortless comfort और natural fitting। वाक्य है: “fits

into the flex of my arm with an \_\_\_ that makes me believe nature rehearsed this pose for centuries.” यह बताता है कि बच्चा बिल्कुल effortlessly मेरे हाथ में बैठता है, जैसे यह pose वर्षों से rehearsed हो रही हो। Attempt, hesitation या struggle गलत हैं क्योंकि वे effort, reluctance या difficulty imply करते हैं, जबकि context में सब natural और harmonious है।

- D) ease is correct because it conveys that the baby fits naturally and comfortably in the arm without effort. It emphasizes the effortless harmony and grace of the moment, making the scene feel calm and perfectly balanced.

25. D) **involuntary** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है natural, spontaneous और बिना सोच-समझ

के होने वाला। वाक्य है: “Even the most serious face melts into an \_\_\_ smile.” यह दिखाता है कि बच्चा presence में, लोगों के चेहरे पर naturally, खुद-ब-खुद मुस्कान ला देता है। Deliberate, mechanical या forced unnatural या artificial लगेंगे, लेकिन involuntary smile spontaneously और naturally आती है।

- D) involuntary is correct because it describes a spontaneous smile that happens naturally without conscious effort. It perfectly captures the natural charm and emotional effect a baby has on people, making the moment feel authentic and heartwarming.