

A picture of a growing economic divide in India

1. Reading Comprehension:

According to the passage, why is Maharashtra considered an example of economic disparity?

- A) It has low overall tax contributions despite high per capita income.
- B) It has both wealthy areas like Mumbai and impoverished areas like Vidarbha.
- C) It is entirely an agricultural state facing issues of farmer suicides.
- D) It is predominantly an industrial state with limited rural areas.

2. Reading Comprehension:

What concern do wealthier states have about the federal distribution of resources, as mentioned in the passage?

- A) They feel they receive disproportionately high resources from the Centre.
- B) They are content with the current share of federal resources.
- C) They believe they contribute more to national resources than they receive back.
- D) They feel that poorer states receive too little federal assistance.

3. Logical Reasoning:

If the trend of investment favoring richer states continues, which of the following is a likely consequence?

- A) Increased migration from richer to poorer states
- B) Further disparity between rich and poor states, affecting federal unity
- C) A shift in private investment from urban to rural areas
- D) A rise in the unorganized sector's share in wealthier states

4. Logical Reasoning:

Based on the passage, why might private investment be less likely in poorer states without government intervention?

- A) Poorer states have fewer strategic benefits for defense.
- B) Private companies focus on short-term gains, so they avoid risky or low-profit regions.
- C) High literacy rates in poorer states reduce demand for certain industries.
- D) Wealthier states lack infrastructure that would benefit new investment.

5. Vocabulary:

In the context of the passage, what does the term “conclave” most likely mean?

- A) A disagreement among several states

- B) A formal meeting or gathering
- C) A conflict resolution process
- D) A proposal for a new policy

What is clicking on the U.S. presidential campaign trail

6. Reading Comprehension:

According to the passage, why is Kamala Harris's campaign less resonant with women today?

- A) Abortion rates have decreased, making it a less pressing issue.
- B) More women today oppose abortion rights than in the 1970s.
- C) Her campaign lacks public support for abortion rights.
- D) Abortion is illegal in most states, reducing its relevance in the campaign.

7. Reading Comprehension:

What aspect of immigration makes Donald Trump's campaign appealing to his supporters, according to the passage?

- A) It focuses on European migrants, who are now fewer in number.
- B) It simplifies complex issues, making it easy to understand.
- C) It addresses concerns about the large presence of Latin American immigrants.
- D) It avoids using emotionally charged language.

8. Logical Reasoning:

Based on the information in the passage, why might Donald Trump not need celebrities to support his campaign?

- A) His campaign message is already straightforward and emotionally appealing.
- B) His supporters are primarily celebrities themselves.
- C) Celebrities tend to undermine his campaign's focus.
- D) He prefers a serious approach over entertainment in his campaign.

9. Logical Reasoning:

If Kamala Harris's campaign strategy involves celebrity endorsements, what risk does she face according to the passage?

- A) The endorsements may backfire, leading to a loss of support.
- B) She might appear overshadowed by the celebrities and lose her spotlight.
- C) Her message could become too emotional and lose rational appeal.
- D) She may attract only younger voters, alienating older demographics.

10. Vocabulary:

In the context of the passage, what does the term “tirade” most likely mean?

- A) A calculated strategy
- B) An emotional outburst
- C) A structured plan
- D) A supportive statement

Tough task

11. Reading Comprehension:

What event helped the JMM and its ally, the Congress, to gain tribal support in the 2024 general election?

- A) An alliance with the CPI (ML)-Liberation.
- B) Chief Minister Hemant Soren's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.
- C) The introduction of the Maiya Samman Yojana.
- D) Discontent in the BJP and AJSU over seat sharing.

12. Reading Comprehension:

Which of the following indicates greater cohesion within the BJP-led alliance compared to the INDIA bloc?

- A) The BJP's strategic alliance with the CPI (ML)-Liberation.
- B) A higher percentage of non-tribal votes in the recent elections.
- C) Fewer disputes regarding candidate announcements and seat allocations.
- D) Support from former Chief Minister Champai Soren.

13. Logical Reasoning:

If the BJP continues to strengthen its tribal voter base by aligning with the AJSU, which of the following is a likely outcome in the Assembly polls?

- A) The BJP-led coalition might gain an advantage over the JMM-led INDIA bloc.
- B) The INDIA bloc could attract more support from the Muslim community.
- C) There will be a significant increase in the non-tribal population of Jharkhand.
- D) The INDIA bloc will shift focus away from welfare schemes.

14. Logical Reasoning:

Given the BJP's use of former JMM members like Champai Soren, what strategy does this represent in the context of the passage?

- A) Increasing party cohesion through consistent seat sharing.

- B) Undermining the JMM's traditional support base by creating internal divisions.
- C) Enhancing welfare programs similar to those of the JMM-led coalition.
- D) Appealing exclusively to non-tribal voters.

15. Vocabulary:

In the context of the passage, what does the phrase "dog whistle" mean?

- A) A subtle or coded message intended to appeal to a specific group.
- B) A call for unity among different political factions.
- C) A formal speech aimed at persuading the general public.
- D) A loud, direct appeal made to all voters.

Beautifully vague

16. Reading Comprehension:

What was the primary focus of Vijay's speech at the TVK State-level conference?

- A) Supporting the BJP's political agenda
- B) Discussing Tamil nationalism and secular social justice
- C) Calling for the closure of the Madurai Secretariat
- D) Criticizing Tamil nationalism and Dravidian identity

17. Reading Comprehension:

Which statement best reflects Vijay's approach to religious belief, as suggested by his speech?

- A) He is opposed to all forms of religious belief.
- B) He supports "one community, one god" but did not define secular social justice.
- C) He endorses religious belief for only one particular group.
- D) He rejected the idea of proportional representation based on religion.

18. Logical Reasoning:

Why might Vijay's offer of a power-sharing arrangement be significant in Tamil Nadu politics?

- A) It challenges the established duopoly and may appeal to those who support coalition governance.
- B) It shows support for the BJP's political stance in Tamil Nadu.
- C) It suggests Vijay's commitment to merging with the AIADMK.
- D) It confirms his support for proportional representation in education.

19. Logical Reasoning:

Given the dual-party dominance in Tamil Nadu, what could be a potential challenge for the TVK?

- A) Gaining support among non-Tamil speakers
- B) Overcoming the entrenched support for the DMK and AIADMK
- C) Competing with other minor parties for voter attention
- D) Attracting national recognition for Tamil Nadu's issues

20. Vocabulary:

In the context of the passage, what does the term “duopoly” most likely mean?

- A) A two-party system where only two main parties dominate
- B) A leadership crisis among political parties
- C) A coalition of several political parties
- D) A monopoly controlled by two major corporations

Answer key on the next page

Answer key

1. Answer: B

Explanation: Maharashtra has wealthy areas like Mumbai as well as impoverished areas like Vidarbha, creating a stark contrast within the state itself.

2. Answer: C

Explanation: Wealthier states argue that they contribute more to the national economy than what they receive in federal resources.

3. Answer: B

Explanation: Continued investment in richer states will likely widen the economic gap, potentially threatening federal unity.

4. Answer: B

Explanation: Private sector investment typically favors profitable regions, avoiding riskier, low-profit areas unless incentivized by the government.

5. Answer: B

Explanation: “Conclave” in this context refers to a formal meeting, specifically of representatives from wealthier states discussing resource distribution.

6. Answer: A

Explanation: The passage states that abortion rates have fallen, making abortion a less urgent issue than it was in the 1970s.

7. Answer: C

Explanation: The passage explains that Mr. Trump’s campaign gains appeal by addressing concerns about the significant number of Latin American immigrants, particularly from Mexico.

8. Answer: A

Explanation: The passage suggests that Trump’s campaign message is straightforward, resonates emotionally with supporters, and does not require celebrity endorsements to enhance it.

9. Answer: B

Explanation: The passage indicates that Kamala Harris’s visibility may be reduced due to the presence of celebrities, potentially causing her to be “lost in the crowd.”

10. Answer: B

Explanation: In this context, “tirade” refers to an emotionally charged outburst or criticism, describing Trump’s passionate opposition to certain immigrant groups.

11. Answer: B

Explanation: The passage mentions that Hemant Soren’s arrest by the Centre was

viewed as vindictive by the tribal community, which helped the JMM and Congress gain tribal support.

12. Answer: C

Explanation: The BJP-led alliance showed greater cohesion by avoiding the discontent over seat allocations that the INDIA bloc faced with the Rashtriya Janata Dal and CPI (ML)-Liberation.

13. Answer: A

Explanation: By solidifying its alliance with the AJSU, the BJP-led coalition could strengthen its tribal support and thus potentially gain an edge over the JMM-led INDIA bloc in the polls.

14. Answer: B

Explanation: The BJP's recruitment of defectors like Champai Soren is intended to undermine the JMM's traditional support base, as he might attract tribal votes away from the JMM.

15. Answer: A

Explanation: In this context, "dog whistle" refers to coded language used by the BJP to indirectly appeal to certain sentiments, here aimed at rallying non-Muslim support under the guise of tribal welfare.

16. Answer: B

Explanation: Vijay's speech primarily addressed themes like Tamil nationalism and secular social justice, though he did not explicitly define these terms.

17. Answer: B

Explanation: Vijay referenced the concept of "one community, one god" from DMK founder Annadurai and emphasized that his party was not against believers, although he did not clarify his position on secular social justice.

18. Answer: A

Explanation: Vijay's suggestion of a power-sharing arrangement challenges the dominant political culture in Tamil Nadu, which has been historically resistant to coalition governance, potentially appealing to those who desire a change.

19. Answer: B

Explanation: Tamil Nadu politics is dominated by the DMK and AIADMK, making it challenging for a new party like the TVK to establish a stronghold in the region.

20. Answer: A

Explanation: In this context, "duopoly" refers to the dominance of two main political parties, the DMK and AIADMK, in Tamil Nadu's political landscape.

