

World's richest man tries to hold back 'gathering tempest' with \$100m gift

Level 3 | **Advanced**

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the following words with their definitions:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1• donation | a• to completely accept |
| 2• grudging | b• extremely upsetting or frightening |
| 3• to shrug off | c• mainly |
| 4• to embrace | d• money given to an organisation |
| 5• a hospice | e• to bring positive results |
| 6• to endorse | f• done in an unwilling way |
| 7• harrowing | g• to express support for something |
| 8• a pandemic | h• a hospital that looks after the terminally ill |
| 9• to pay off | i• to deal with something easily and without concern |
| 10• predominantly | j• a disease that affects almost everyone in a large area |

2 What do you know about HIV/Aids?

Decide whether the following statements are True or False:

- 1• South Africa is currently the country with the largest number of AIDS cases.
- 2• More than 25 million Indians will probably have the Aids virus by 2010.
- 3• Up to 105 million people in India, Russia and China could die of Aids by 2025.
- 4• Currently 7% of the adult population of India is carrying the HIV virus.
- 5• The problem of Aids in India is complicated by the fact that there is little public debate on sexual matters.

Now read the text and check your answers.

World's richest man tries to hold back 'gathering tempest' with \$100m gift

Luke Harding

Bill Gates was disappointed by India's apparent lack of gratitude, he did a good job of hiding it on Monday as he announced his biggest philanthropic donation yet - a \$100m to fight the spread of HIV/Aids in India. But the vast donation from the world's richest man has so far only had a grudging response from India's rightwing government. It had earlier accused him of "spreading panic" in a row over the probable future spread of the disease. However, Mr Gates shrugged off the controversy. "Whatever the figures are now or seven years from now, there is a big, big problem [in India]," he said. "We have seen in other countries what happens if you don't act early. You don't get involved in Aids without being willing to embrace some degree of controversy." Before announcing his long-term "commitment" to slowing the spread of HIV/Aids, he paid a visit to an Aids hospice in Delhi. There was no Princess Diana-style hugging, though a serene-looking Gates did sit cross-legged on the floor next to an Aids patient. The Indian government had earlier let it

be known it was deeply unhappy with a report endorsed by Gates that predicted that 20 million to 25 million Indians were likely to have the virus by 2010 - and that India was poised to overtake South Africa as the country with the largest number of Aids cases. Campaigners have accused the government of deliberately underestimating the extent of the epidemic to the point of being in denial. Their claims were endorsed this week by a new, harrowing report that suggests that Eurasia - India, China and Russia - are soon likely to suffer the same kind of Aids pandemic that is currently decimating sub-Saharan Africa. The disease in these three countries alone could kill between 43 million and 105 million people by 2025, it says. The report, published in the American magazine *Foreign Affairs*, is unlikely to go down well with India's Hindu nationalist establishment which, as Bill Gates found out, sharply resists all forms of external interference. Last week India's health minister, Shatrughan Sinha, rubbished suggestions that India was on the brink

of an Aids epidemic. They were "completely inaccurate", he said. The government has not given an alternative projection, but says it does not expect a dramatic increase by the end of the decade. Aids prevention programmes are paying off and the number of HIV carriers has stabilised to around 4 million - 0.7% of its adult population - over the past three years, it claims. Other experts say that 5 million to 8 million Indians are already infected. "I don't think anyone should contribute to spreading general panic," Mr Sinha added.

Mr Gates's intervention was always likely to be controversial in a conservative, predominantly Hindu country where, as one Aids expert put it, "only the intelligentsia" talk about sex. Despite the riotously erotic sculptures in several ancient Indian temples, there is little public debate on sexual matters and, it seems, widespread confusion as to how to wear a condom. Screen kisses between Indians are still banned, and Bollywood directors get round the problem of portraying sex with wet sari scenes and less-than-subtle dance numbers.

Mr Gates said it was not just developing countries that were reluctant to talk about sex: the same problem existed in the US. "We have the Catholic church. We have people who tell us that talking about sex will encourage young people to engage in rampant sexual behaviour," he said.

The Guardian Weekly 14-11-2002, page 2

World's richest man tries to hold back 'gathering tempest' with \$100m gift

Level 3 | **Advanced**

3 Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer for each question

- 1• How was Bill Gates' \$100 million donation received by the Indian government?
 - a• With great enthusiasm.
 - b• With extreme gratitude.
 - c• With grudging acceptance.
- 2• How did Bill Gates react to the controversy?
 - a• He rejected it.
 - b• He was not concerned by it.
 - c• He denied that he was responsible.
- 3• What do Aids campaigners accuse the Indian government of?
 - a• Completely ignoring the problem of Aids.
 - b• Not accepting the extent of the epidemic.
 - c• Over-estimating the number of people with Aids.
- 4• Why is the latest report on Aids in Eurasia likely to prove unpopular with the Indian establishment?
 - a• Because they do not like interference from outside.
 - b• Because they believe it is inaccurate.
 - c• Because they do not like Bill Gates.
- 5• Why was Bill Gates' intervention controversial in India?
 - a• Because he is a conservative.
 - b• Because people do not talk about sexual matters much.
 - c• Because sex is banned in Indian films.

4 Find the word

Find:

- 1• An adjective which means "helping people, especially by giving money to those who need it".
- 2• An adjective which means "calm or peaceful".
- 3• An adjective which means "about to do something".
- 4• An adverb which means "intentionally".
- 5• A verb which means "to criticise something by saying it is stupid".
- 6• An adverb which means "in a very lively and noisy manner".
- 7• An adjective which means "affecting many people".
- 8• An adjective which means "unwilling".
- 9• An adjective which means "uncontrolled".

World's richest man tries to hold back 'gathering tempest' with \$100m gift

Level 3 | **Advanced**

5 Expressing probability

There are a number of expressions in the text that refer to things that will probably happen in the very near future:

Likely to

Unlikely to

Poised to

On the brink of ...

Rewrite these sentences using the word in brackets:

- 1• India will soon overtake South Africa as the country with the largest number of Aids cases. (poised)
- 2• India will probably soon have an Aids epidemic. (brink)
- 3• Local politicians will probably not accept the latest report. (unlikely)
- 4• 20 to 25 million Indians will probably have the HIV virus by 2010 (likely)
- 5• Some people say that India will soon have an Aids disaster. (brink)

6 Discussion points

Do you think that governments spend enough money on Aids treatment and on research into finding a cure for Aids?
Is education the solution?

Key

1 Key Vocabulary

1 d; 2 f; 3 l; 4 a; 5 h; 6 g; 7 b; 8 j; 9 e 10 c

2 True or False

1 T; 2 F; 3 T; 4 F; 5 T

3 Comprehension Check

1 c; 2 b; 3 b; 4 a; 5 b

4 Find the word

- 1 philanthropic
- 2 serene
- 3 poised
- 4 deliberately
- 5 to rubbish
- 6 riotously
- 7 widespread
- 8 reluctant
- 9 rampant

5 Expressing Probability

- 1 India is poised to overtake South Africa
- 2 India is on the brink of an Aids epidemic.
- 3 Local politicians are unlikely to accept the latest report.
- 4 20 to 25 million Indians are likely to have the HIV virus by 2010.
- 5 Some people say India is on the brink of an Aids disaster.