

Staying the course: On monitoring inflation

Inflation may have **moderated a bit**, but remains a threat that **warrants** constant **vigil**

Over this week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke **at length** on India's inflation battle, **signalling** it is no longer as **'red-lettered'** a priority as there are more big picture **pursuits** such as creating jobs, sustaining growth and ensuring **equitable** wealth distribution. **The Government**, she **remarked**, **has** shown its ability to tackle inflation, having **brought it down** to a **somewhat 'manageable'** level in the last couple of months. The Finance Ministry expects **inflationary** pressures to be **'capped'** due to steps taken by the central bank and the Government since **consumer inflation hit** an eight-year high of 7.8% this April and the recent **dip** in commodity prices. Though July's **retail inflation** of 6.71% **was** a relief, it still remained **uncomfortably** above the 6% official **tolerance threshold**. Price rise in rural India has been much sharper — averaging 7.6% in the first four months of 2022-23 and over 7% through 2022 **so far**, compared to the overall average consumer inflation of 7.14% and 6.79% for the two time-frames, respectively. While **headline** monthly numbers affect **sentiment**, a **prolonged spell** of high inflation **is** more **deleterious** for households' ability and **propensity** to spend, **denting** demand and growth **impulses** that may **catalyse** fresh investments from industry. The **uneven** monsoon so far could further weaken rural demand even as worries about lower **sowing** of paddy and pulses are **spurring** their prices higher in recent weeks.

The RBI believes that inflation has **peaked** in India, but Deputy Governor Michael Patra is not **entirely** convinced about the **'durability'** of moderating prices despite lower commodity costs, noting that **upside risks persist**. The **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) for August due next week, some **reckon**, **could** take inflation closer to 7% again, partly because **food price rise**, that **accounts for** 45% of the CPI and had **dipped** to a five-month low in July, **may** have **resurged**. While one should hope the worst is behind, it is too early to **let the guard down**. On Thursday, Ms. Sitharaman said that monetary policy tools such as interest rate hikes alone cannot **tame** inflation and **nudged** the RBI to not be **'as synchronised'** with its developed world **counterparts** when growth needs to be **unfettered**. **The emphasis** on a **multi-pronged** approach to **contain** inflation, including better **logistics**, **fiscal** and trade policy moves, such as the export duty **imposed** on rice later that evening, **is** correct. Her **flagging** of wide **variations** in States' inflation trends and linking higher inflation in some States to their failure to cut petroleum prices **may** be a **tad** political. But the Government must act **expeditiously** on her **call** for a **mechanism** where the Centre and States work together to tackle price rise. That would be more effective in ensuring that inflation's immediate term moderation is **durable** and it can be re-activated so that future policy reactions are quicker, more **sure-footed** and **cohesive**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Stay the course** (phrase) – keep going strongly to the end of a race or contest.
2. **Monitor** (verb) – watch, monitoring, control, check, supervise निगरानी करना
3. **Inflation** (noun) – A general and progressive increase in prices मुद्रा स्फीति
4. **Moderate** (verb) – lessen, reduce, soften, temperate घटाना/ शांत करना
5. **A bit** (noun) – marginally, to a certain extent, मामूली
6. **Warrant** (verb) – Necessitate, require, deserve, call for ज़रूरी बनाना
7. **Vigil** (noun) – Watch, surveillance, monitoring निगरानी
8. **At length** (phrase) – in detail विस्तार से
9. **Signal** (verb) – sign, indicate, suggest, show संकेत करना
10. **Red-lettered** (adjective) – of special importance
11. **Pursuit** (noun) – an activity that you do either for work or for pleasure व्यवसाय
12. **Equitable** (adjective) – fair, just, impartial समान
13. **Remark** (verb) – Make mention of; comment, note, observe, notice, mention कहना
14. **Bring down** (phrasal verb) – to reduce the level of something
15. **Somewhat** (adverb) – slightly, rather, moderately, little, fairly कुछ हद तक
16. **Manageable** (adjective) – easy or possible to deal with नियन्त्रणीय
17. **Inflationary** (adjective) – Associated with or tending to cause increases in inflation
18. **Cap** (verb) – Limit, regulate, control, restrain, restrict, check सीमित करना
19. **Consumer inflation** (noun) – increases in the prices that people pay in a particular period of time for goods and services
20. **Hit** (verb) – to reach a place or a level पहुँचना
21. **Dip** (noun) – Fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, plunge गिरना
22. **Uncomfortably** (adverb) – unpleasantly, awkwardly, uneasily, painfully, disagreeably असुविधाजनक रूप से
23. **RBI's inflation tolerance threshold** (noun) – The threshold inflation level for India is 6 per cent
24. **So far** (phrase) – hitherto, as yet, heretofore, previously, thus far अभी तक
25. **Headline** (adjective) – a headline amount, number, or rate is the most important one or the one that people notice most

26. **Sentiment** (noun) – opinion, view, attitude
भावना
27. **Prolonged** (adjective) – extended, lengthy, protracted, long, lengthened लंबे समय तक
28. **Spell** (noun) – period, time, stretch दौर, चरण
29. **Deleterious** (adjective) – harmful, injurious, detrimental, damaging, hurtful
हानिकारक
30. **Propensity** (noun) – tendency, inclination, proclivity, predisposition, leaning झुकाव
31. **Dent** (verb) – Reduce, Diminish, Lessen, Undermine, Damage, Depress कम करना
32. **Impulse** (noun) – Force, stimulus, propulsion, spur आवेग
33. **Catalyse** (verb) – to make something start happening घटित होना
34. **Uneven** (adjective) – irregular, unequal, rough, jagged, lopsided असमान
35. **Sowing** (noun) – the act of scattering seeds on land so that they may grow बोवाई
36. **Spur** (verb) – prod, urge, encourage, prompt प्रोत्साहित करना
37. **Peak** (verb) – to reach the highest point or value
38. **Entirely** (adverb) – completely, totally, fully, absolutely, wholly बिलकुल
39. **Durability** (noun) – endurance, permanence, stability टिकाऊपन
40. **Upside risk** (noun) – the uncertain possibility of gain
41. **Persist** (verb) – continue, remain, persevere, endure, last दृढ़ रहना
42. **Consumer price index** (CPI) (noun) – it measures changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that a reference population acquires, uses or pays for consumption.
43. **Reckon** (verb) – Expect, believe, or suppose मानना
44. **Account for** (phrasal verb) – Comprise, make up, constitute, total, represent के लिये उत्तरदायी होना
45. **Dip** (verb) – Drop, descend, decline, sink, fall, plummet, drop down
46. **Resurge** (verb) – Rise again
47. **Let the guard down** (phrase) – to relax and stop being careful and alert.
48. **Tame** (verb) – Control, curb, repress, suppress, subdue नियंत्रण करना
49. **Nudge** (verb) – to encourage or persuade someone to do something in a way that is gentle rather than forceful or direct
50. **Synchronised** (adjective) – Coordinated, Harmonized, Corresponding, Matched समन्वित

51. **Counterpart** (noun) – equivalent, parallel, twin, match, peer समकक्ष
52. **Unfettered** (adjective) – free, unrestricted, unrestrained, untied, unchained निरंकुश, मुक्त
53. **Multi-pronged** (adjective) – Having multiple aspects बहुआयामी
54. **Contain** (verb) – control, curb, inhibit, restrict, confine, limit नियंत्रित करना
55. **Logistics** (noun) – the process of planning and organizing to make sure that resources are in the places where they are needed
56. **Fiscal** (adjective) – Financial वित्तीय
57. **Impose** (verb) – enforce, inflict, levy, force, foist थोपना
58. **Flagging** (noun) – Sign, indication, augury संकेत
59. **Variation** (noun) – change, difference, variance, alteration, deviation विभिन्नता
60. **Tad** (noun) – bit, little थोड़ा
61. **Expeditiously** (adverb) – promptly, quickly, swiftly, rapidly, speedily तेजी से
62. **Call** (noun) – Demand, bid, appeal मांग
63. **Mechanism** (noun) – Method, system, procedure, process, way तंत्र
64. **Durable** (adjective) – strong, lasting, stable, persistent टिकाऊ
65. **Sure-footed** (adjective) – confident and unlikely to make mistakes, especially in difficult situations दृढ़, निस्संदिग्ध
66. **Cohesive** (adjective) – coherent, adhesive, unified, united, integrated संसक्त, जोड़नेवाला

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words [Editorial page]

1. Inflation may have moderated a bit, but remains a threat that warrants constant vigil
 - A. Gratuitous
 - B. Belabor
 - C. Extol
 - D. Surveillance
2. A prolonged spell of high inflation is more deleterious for households' ability and propensity to spend, denting demand and growth impulses that may catalyse fresh investments from industry.
 - A. Harmful
 - B. Agrarian
 - C. Venerate
 - D. Fidelity
3. On Thursday, Ms. Sitharaman said that monetary policy tools such as interest rate hikes alone cannot tame inflation and nudged the RBI to not be 'as synchronised' with its developed world counterparts when growth needs to be unfettered
 - A. Contrived
 - B. Trepidation
 - C. Control
 - D. Esoteric
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

I've tried to get the most out of life by always seizing the moment. That's how I ended up living in Europe and fell in love with your father!

 - A. Slightly less than something
 - B. Appear promising but ultimately disappoint
 - C. Take the opportunity
 - D. To make a difficult situation even worse for someone
5. **Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**

India's current regime has a penchant for symbolism and optics, a tendency that becomes more pronounced when the symbolism is religious.

P. for the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in the Lumbini Monastic Zone.

Q. To that end, the PM's visit would have been welcomed by his Nepali counterpart.

R. So it was not a surprise that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a short visit to Lumbini in Nepal on Buddha Jayanti.

S. The Centre will play a role in challenging the preponderance of the Chinese sponsorship and patronage of the Buddhist festivals and institutions in the area.

T. It could also be a harbinger of a focused development of the area into a tourist and cultural hub for pilgrims and other visitors.

U. Lumbini, in Buddhist tradition, is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha and Mr Modi along with his Nepali counterpart laid the foundation stone

Which among the following will be the **Last** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P B.T C.U D.Q E.R

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. Mohini was so tired that she could not hardly talk to the guests for a few minutes.
B. Neither of the two children said his prayer before going to bed.
C. I sat down opposite him and offered him the packet of cigarettes.
D. This happened exactly five years ago.
E. All are correct
7. A. Toni smiled when he remembered his hard early years and his long road to success
B. Good heavens! How she has grown!
C. He goes to office by foot.
D. The doctor advised MR. Prakash that, because of his severe cramps, he should lie in bed for a few days.
E. All are correct
8. The hundred-rupees notes(A)/that he gave them for the goods bought from them looked genuine(B)/ but later they reliably(C)/ learnt that the notes were all counterfeit(D)/ No Error(E)
9. A variety of pleasant items in the shop (A)/ attracts (B)/ everybody. (C)/ No error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
A. Irremediable
B. Ransacking
C. Mushrooming
D. Plandering

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Control, alter – Aug 20, 2022)

The BJP has reconstituted its 11-member Parliamentary Board and the 15-member Central Election Committee this week **(A)**/ and they are likely to remain in charge well into the 2024 general election. **(B)**/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grip over party matters is absolutely **(C)**/ and the reconstitution of these apex bodies hardly alters that fact. **(D)**

In that sense, nothing fundamentally changes, and the changes reinforce the trend of Mr. Modi's expanding footprint in the party's remaking. Senior leader Nitin Gadkari, a former party president, and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan have lost their Parliamentary Board seats, while the new icon of the Hindutva _____ **11** _____, U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath, has not found a place. The former Karnataka CM, B.S. Yediyurappa, who holds sway over the Lingayat community and is crucial in electoral calculations in Karnataka has been brought back into the power structure, a year after he

was asked to resign as Chief Minister. By inducting him into both bodies, the central leadership has conceded his indispensability. Also notable is the BJP's _____**12**_____ to redeploy resources according to changing situations — Sarbananda Sonowal, a tribal face in Assam who was replaced as Chief Minister, is now in the Parliamentary Board. He is also a Union Minister.

Iqbal Singh Lalpura has become the first Sikh to be inducted into **(1)**/ BJP OBC Morcha head and Rajya Sabha MP K. Laxman from Telangana and Lok Sabha MP Sudha Yadav from Haryana are expected to be **(2)**/ the Parliamentary Board, while Shahnawaz Hussain has been dropped from the CEC. **(3)**/ the party's links to relatively new constituencies. **(4)**/ Mr. Modi is particular about **staying (A)** in complete control, but he recruits and **deploys (B)** a diverse **legion (C)** in his support. The BJP under him has achieved a balance between a disciplined central command and the **autonomy (D)** of individual leaders who are in charge of particular tasks. While only a few of them have the capacity of Mr. Yediyurappa to bargain with the party, they do strengthen the _____**13**_____ social engineering pursuits of the BJP. The party has the capacity to be flexible and can even reverse its decisions to manage its electoral prospects, as Mr. Yediyurappa's rehabilitation shows. The _____**14**_____ of Mr. Gadkari, who has maintained an image of relative autonomy as Minister and a party leader, on the other hand, can be interpreted as a stern demand for absolute loyalty. That too is a sign of the changing relationship between Mr. Modi and the RSS, the mother ship of the Sangh Parivar that includes the BJP. Mr. Gadkari is said to be a favourite of the RSS, which no longer holds the same sway over the BJP as it used to. Mr. Gadkari's exclusion also **coincides** with the inclusion of another Brahmin from Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, in the CEC. The reconstituted Parliamentary Board and CEC of the BJP signal dynamism and tight control at the same time.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. Senior leader Nitin Gadkari, a former party president, and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan have lost their Parliamentary Board seats, while the new icon of the Hindutva _____**11**_____, U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath, has not found a place.
 - A. Ostentatious
 - B. Camp
 - C. Deluge
 - D. Abridge
12. Also notable is the BJP's _____**12**_____ to redeploy resources according to changing situations — Sarbananda Sonowal, a tribal face in Assam who was replaced as Chief Minister, is now in the Parliamentary Board. He is also a Union Minister.
 - A. Agility
 - B. Amoral
 - C. Indigenous
 - D. Perfidy
13. While only a few of them have the capacity of Mr. Yediyurappa to bargain with the party, they do strengthen the _____**13**_____ social engineering pursuits of the BJP.
 - A. Spawn
 - B. Exacting
 - C. Relentless

- D. Nepotism
14. The _____ 14 _____ of Mr. Gadkari, who has maintained an image of relative autonomy as Minister and a party leader, on the other hand, can be interpreted as a stern demand for absolute loyalty.
- A. Vindictive
B. Dislodging
C. Exacerbating
D. Coercing
15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**
- The BJP has reconstituted its 11-member Parliamentary Board and the 15-member Central Election Committee this week **(A)/** and they are likely to remain in charge well into the 2024 general election. **(B)/** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grip over party matters is absolutely **(C)/** and the reconstitution of these apex bodies hardly alters that fact. **(D)**
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
- Iqbal Singh Lalpura has become the first Sikh to be inducted into **(1)/** BJP OBC Morcha head and Rajya Sabha MP K. Laxman from Telangana and Lok Sabha MP Sudha Yadav from Haryana are expected to be **(2)/** the Parliamentary Board, while Shahnawaz Hussain has been dropped from the CEC. **(3)/** the party's links to relatively new constituencies. **(4)/**
- A. 1234
B. 4321
C. 2413
D. 2143
E. 1432
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence
- COINCIDE**
- (i) Election day is going to **coincide** with the festival, so they are expecting a low turnout.
(ii) I timed my holiday to **coincide** with the children's.
(iii) Please don't get **coincide** with her as she is honest.
- A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. (i), (ii)
E. (ii), (iii)

18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

Mr. Modi is particular about **staying (A)** in complete control, but he recruits and **deploys (B)** a diverse **legion (C)** in his support. The BJP under him has achieved a balance between a disciplined central command and the **autonomy (D)** of individual leaders who are in charge of particular tasks.

- A. C – A
B. A – D
C. B – C
D. D – C
E. No arrangement
19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.

- (i) Tom loved dogs
(ii) He was allergic to them
- A. However
B. Unless
C. Therefore
D. As a result

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Her heart condition is not amenable _____ treatment.

- A. Of
B. From
C. With
D. To

Answers

1. 2. 3. 4. C 5. D 6. A 7. C 8.A 9. D 10. D 11. B 12. A
 13. C 14.B 15. C 16. C 17. D 18.E 19. A 20.D **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

4. **Seize the moment**(phrase)– take the opportunity मौके का फायदा उठाना
5. **RUPSTQ**
 India's current regime has a penchant for symbolism and optics, a tendency that becomes more pronounced when the symbolism is religious. So it was not a surprise that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a short visit to Lumbini in Nepal on Buddha Jayanti. Lumbini, in Buddhist tradition, is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha and Mr. Modi along with his Nepali counterpart laid the foundation stone for the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in the Lumbini Monastic Zone. The Centre will play a role in challenging the preponderance of the Chinese sponsorship and patronage of the Buddhist festivals and institutions in the area. It could also be a harbinger of a focused development of the area into a tourist and cultural hub for pilgrims and other visitors. To that end, the PM's visit would have been welcomed by his Nepali counterpart.
6. 'not' या 'hardly' में से किसी एक का ही प्रयोग कर वाक्य को Negative बनाया जाता है क्योंकि 'not' का अर्थ है 'नहीं' और 'hardly' का अर्थ है 'न के बराबर' जैसे-
- He will not do it.
 - He will hardly do it.
- Using only one of 'not' or 'hardly' the sentence is made negative because 'not' means 'not' and 'hardly' means 'negligible' like-
- He will not do it.
 - He will hardly do it.
7. 'by foot' के बदले 'on foot' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'on foot' idiomatic use है जिसका अर्थ है 'walking' अर्थात् 'पैदल, टहलते हुए'; जैसे-
- Are you going by bicycle or on foot?
- 'on foot' will be used instead of 'by foot' because 'on foot' is idiomatic use which means 'walking' ; As-
- Are you going by bicycle or on foot?
8. 'hundred - rupees' के बदले 'hundred-rupee' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि किसी Numeral Adjective तथा Noun का प्रयोग एक Adjective की तरह हो तो इस Noun का Plural नहीं बनता है; जैसे-
- I have bought a three-room flat.
 - A five-man committee will look into the matter.
 - He gave me some five hundred-rupee notes
- 'hundred-rupee' will be used instead of 'hundred - rupees' because if a Numeral Adjective and Noun is used as an Adjective then Plural of this Noun is not formed; As-
- I have bought a three-room flat.

- ii. A five-man committee will look into the matter.
- iii. He gave me some five hundred-rupee notes.

10. **Plundering** (noun) – looting, pillaging, ransacking, devastation, depredation लूट-मार

11. **Camp** (noun) – faction, wing, side, group, party गुट

12. **Agility** (noun) – Ability to think and understand quickly. चपलता, फुर्ती

13. **Relentless** (adjective) – persistent, continuing, constant, continual सतत

14. **Dislodging** (noun) – an act of removing person from a position of power or authority. हटाना

15. Replace 'absolute' with 'absolutely' as adjective is used after the forms of 'Be'.

16. (C) **2413**

BJP OBC Morcha head and Rajya Sabha MP K. Laxman from Telangana and Lok Sabha MP Sudha Yadav from Haryana are expected to be the party's links to relatively new constituencies. Iqbal Singh Lalpura has become the first Sikh to be inducted into the Parliamentary Board, while Shahnawaz Hussain has been dropped from the CEC.

17. **Coincide** (verb) – occur simultaneously, happen together साथ होना

According to the given options only (i) and (ii) are contextually correct.

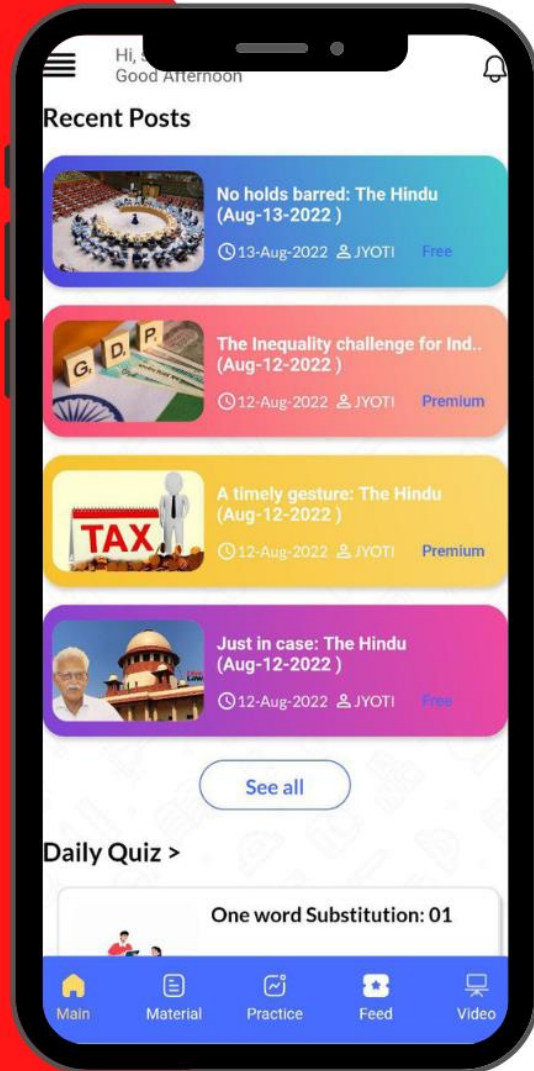
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentence should be like

Please don't get offended with her as she is honest.

19. Tom Loved dogs **however** he was allergic to them.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Gratuitous	adjective	Given freely; unjustified; unprovoked; uncalled for	मुफ्त, निःशुल्क, ऐच्छिक
	Belabor	verb	To go over repeatedly or to an absurd extent	बुरी तरह पीटना, घोर निन्दा करना
	Extol	verb	To praise highly; to laud	सराहना, बड़ाई करना
Q2	Agrarian	adjective	Relating to land; relating to the management or farming of land	कृषि संबंधी, भूमि-संबंधी
	Venerate	verb	To revere; to treat as something holy, especially because of great age.	सम्मानित करना
	Fidelity	noun	Faithfulness; loyalty	निष्ठा, विश्वस्तता, वफादारी
Q3	contrived	adjective	Artificial; labored	काल्पनिक
	Trepidation	noun	Fear; apprehension; nervous; trembling	घबराहट, आशंका; बेचैन
	Esoteric	adjective	Hard to understand; understood by only a selected few; peculiar	गुप्त, अजीब, गूढ़
Q11	Ostentatious	adjective	Excessively conspicuous; showing off	दिखावटी
	Deluge	noun	a flood; an inundation	बाढ़
	Abridge	verb	To shorten; to condense	संक्षेप करना
Q12	Amoral	adjective	Lacking a sense of right or wrong; neither good nor bad, neither moral nor immoral; without moral feelings.	नीतिहीन, नीतिभ्रष्ट
	Indigenous	adjective	Native; originating in that area	स्वदेशी
	Perfidy	noun	Treachery	नमकहरामी
Q13	Spawn	verb	To bring forth; to produce a large number	प्रकट करना
	Exacting	adjective	Extremely demanding; difficult; requiring great skill or care	मांग करनेवाला; कठोर, सख्त
	Nepotism	noun	Showing favoritism to friends or family in business or politics	भाई-भतीजावाद
Q14	Vindictive	adjective	Seeking revenge	प्रतिशोधी
	Exacerbate	verb	To make worse	खराब करना
	Coerce	verb	To force someone to do or not to do something	जबरन कराना



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