

House matters: On the logjam in Parliament

The government should not avoid a **debate** on issues of **governance**

The second **leg** of the Budget session of Parliament **is** in a **deadlock**. The **ruling** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to **apologise** for **remarks** that he made in London recently about democratic **backsliding** in India; the Congress is **insisting** on the **constitution** of a **Joint Parliamentary Committee** (JPC) to **probe allegations** of **dubious** financial transactions and dishonest business **practices** against the Adani Group of companies. Available evidence suggests that Mr. Gandhi had **categorically stated** that the **challenges** to Indian democracy **had** to be **sorted out** domestically, and **ruled out** any role for foreign **forces**. With the Indian **diaspora expanding**, the **ripple effects** of politics in India are **inevitable** beyond the country's **geographical** boundaries. In fact, the BJP has for long believed in cultural **nationalism** which is not contained within the geography of India. Mr. Modi has discussed national politics before audiences around the world. A **democracy** that does not allow **criticism**, including of democracy itself, **is** a **contradiction** in terms. Mr. Gandhi has not been able to speak in Parliament and explain his remarks; **meanwhile**, a BJP Member has **initiated** a process to **terminate** Mr. Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership. It is an **ill-advised** move, and if **carried out**, will further **amplify** the fears of a **democratic deficit** in India.

In their **clamour** for an apology by Mr. Gandhi, BJP Ministers are also **evading** questions regarding government **patronage** of the Adani Group. The Congress has been **seeking** answers from the government on the links between the public sector Life Insurance Corporation of India and the State Bank of India with the Adani Group. The BJP and the government have been silent on this serious issue of governance that **spans** the government and the public and private sectors. **Arbitrariness** in decision making, followed by a lack of **accountability**, **amounts to** governance failure, if not **collusion**. The government, the Rajya Sabha chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker should work with the Opposition for a discussion on the issues **arising out** of the Adani controversy. **Coming clean** is **essential** in maintaining the government's **credibility**, the regulatory environment and the private sector. There have been **precedents** of a JPC in cases of financial **scandals**. The BJP has the numbers to **get away with** any **disregard** for parliamentary **norms**, but it should **rise above** that **temptation** and **evolve** as a true party of governance. Parliament has a **role to play** in fixing **accountability**, and the BJP should not avoid it and **betray** a new level of **executive impunity**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **House** (noun) – Legislative assembly
2. **Matter** (verb) – be important or significant मायने रखना
3. **Logjam** (noun) – a deadlock; standstill गतिरोध
4. **Debate** (noun) – Discussion, argument, dispute, deliberation बहस
5. **Governance** (noun) – The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन
6. **Leg** (noun) – session, term चरण
7. **Deadlock** (noun) – stalemate, impasse, checkmate, stand-off गतिरोध
8. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling, सत्तारूढ़
9. **Apologise** (verb) – Say sorry, make an apology, ask for forgiveness, express regret माफी माँगना
10. **Remark** (noun) – Comment, statement, say, observe टिप्पणी
11. **Backsliding** (noun) – the act of declining from a previously achieved level (of democratic rights or values) पतन
12. **Insist** (verb) – insist on, enforce, require, claim, exact, impose जोर देना
13. **Constitution** (noun) – formation, structure, composition गठन
14. **Join Parliamentary Committee** (noun) – A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is set up by the Parliament for a special purpose, like for the detailed scrutiny of a subject or Bill.
15. **Probe** (verb) – investigate, examine, scrutinize, inquire into जांच करना
16. **Allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, claim, assertion आरोप
17. **Dubious** (adjective) – doubtful, questionable, uncertain, suspicious, suspect संदिग्ध
18. **Practice** (noun) – Habit, custom, tradition प्रथा, कार्य
19. **Categorically** (adverb) – In a way that is unambiguously explicit and direct. स्पष्ट रूप से
20. **State** (verb) – express, voice, utter, say, tell, declare कहना
21. **Sort out** (phrasal verb) – resolve a problem or difficulty. सुलझाना, निबटाना, ठीक करना
22. **Rule out** (phrasal verb) – reject, dismiss, disregard खारिज करना
23. **forces** (plural noun) – Body, agency, outfit ताकतें

24. **Diaspora** (noun) – the movement of people away from their own country प्रवासी
25. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden विस्तार करना
26. **Ripple effect** (noun) – the effect or influence of a situation, action, event, etc. that does not stop but is experienced on a series of things one after the other (घटना, कार्य आदि का) शृंखलाबद्ध प्रभाव या परिणाम
27. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, inescapable, bound to happen, sure to happen अपरिहार्य
28. **Geographical** (adjective) – relating to geography. भौगोलिक
29. **Nationalism** (noun) – a feeling that your country is better than any other राष्ट्रवाद
30. **Criticism** (noun) – censure, condemnation, critique, disapproval आलोचना
31. **Contradiction** (noun) – conflict, clash, disagreement, opposition, inconsistency विरोधाभास/ परस्पर विरोध
32. **Meanwhile** (adverb) – at the same time, simultaneously, concurrently, meantime, इस दौरान
33. **Initiate** (verb) – start, begin, launch, inaugurate, commence शुरू करना
34. **Terminate** (verb) – end, finish, conclude, stop, cease समाप्त करना
35. **Ill-advised** (adjective) – Foolish, risky, misguided, unwise गलत
36. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – conduct, perform, implement कार्यान्वित करना/ अंजाम देना
37. **Amplify** (verb) – Intensify, increase, strengthen, magnify, augment, enlarge, swell बढ़ाना
38. **Democratic deficit** (noun) – A democratic deficit occurs when supposedly democratic organisations or institutions, such as governments, do not fulfil the principles of democracy in how they operate.
39. **Clamour** (noun) – demand, request, appeal मांग
40. **Evade** (verb) – avoid, dodge, elude, escape, sidestep टालना/ बचना
41. **Patronage** (noun) – support, backing, protection. संरक्षण
42. **Seek** (verb) – Ask for (answers) from someone. मांगना
43. **Span** (verb) – to cover, to encompass, to stretch across, to extend over, to range over फैलाना
44. **Arbitrariness** (noun) –the act of making decisions based on personal discretion or without regard for established rules or principles मनमानी

45. **Accountability** (noun) –responsibility, liability, answerability जवाबदेही
46. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – be equivalent to के बराबर होना
47. **Collusion** (noun) –conspiracy, connivance, collaboration, complicity(secret or illegal) मिलीभगत
48. **Arise out** (phrasal verb) – occur, begin, start, happen उत्पन्न होना
49. **Come clean** (phrasal verb) – be completely honest; keep nothing hidden अपराध स्वीकार करना/ सच्चाई को स्वीकार करना
50. **Essential** (adjective) – Vital, indispensable, important, crucial, critical, necessary आवश्यक
51. **Credibility** (noun) – trustworthiness, reliability, Integrity, acceptability विश्वसनीयता
52. **Precedent** (noun) – example, model, case law, paradigm, preceding मिसाल, पूर्व उदाहरण
53. **Scandal** (noun) – a disgraceful event; outrageous wrongdoing, outrageous behaviour, immoral behaviour. कांड
54. **Get away with** (phrasal verb) – escape, evade, avoid, elude बच निकलना
55. **Disregard** (noun) – disrespect, indifference, contempt, disdain, neglect उपेक्षा/ अवहेलना
56. **Norm** (noun) – standard, rule, criterion, yardstick मानदंड
57. **Rise above** (phrasal verb) – to transcending or moving beyond a particular level or situation, especially one that is difficult or challenging. से ऊपर उठना
58. **Temptation** (noun) – lure, enticement, attraction, allurement, fascination प्रलोभन
59. **Evolve** (verb) – develop, advance, grow, mature, progress विकसित होना
60. **Play a role/part in** (phrasal verb) – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in, में भूमिका निभाना
61. **Accountability** (noun) – responsibility, liability, answerability जवाबदेही
62. **Betray** (verb) – Reveal, disclose, tell, divulge, show accidentally, प्रकट करना
63. **Executive** (adjective) – The executive branch of the government, including the president, the cabinet, and several departments, manages the duties of government and its laws. कार्यपालिका
64. **Impunity** (noun) – exemption from punishment, freedom from punishment दण्ड मुक्ति

Practice Exercise – Banking Pattern

1. **What is the deadlock in the second leg of the Budget session of Parliament?** [Editorial]
 - A. Congress is demanding an apology from BJP for allegations against Adani Group
 - B. BJP is demanding an apology from Congress for remarks made by Rahul Gandhi in London
 - C. BJP is demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations against Adani Group
 - A. Congress is demanding a discussion on governance failure arising from the Adani controversy
2. **What is the Congress demanding regarding the Adani Group of companies?**
 - A. An apology from BJP for allegations against Adani Group
 - B. A discussion on governance failure arising from the Adani controversy
 - C. A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations against Adani Group
 - D. An explanation from the government on the links between public sector institutions and Adani Group
3. **What is the tone of the author towards the BJP's demand for Rahul Gandhi's apology and the government's silence on the Adani controversy?**
 - A. Sarcastic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Critical
 - D. Supportive
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The Adani controversy and the government's silence on it
 - B. The BJP's demand for Rahul Gandhi's apology and its impact on Indian democracy
 - C. The need for parliamentary accountability and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations of financial scandals
 - D. The expansion of Indian diaspora and its impact on Indian politics
5. **Direction: Two 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.**
 - (i) At least 140 people were killed after a suspension bridge(D)/, the Machchhu river below. (E)/ collapsed, sending hundreds of revellers into (F)/ a tourist attraction in Gujarat's Morbi town(G)/,
 - (ii) making it one of India's most(A)/ At least 47 of the dead were children(B)/, horrendous tragedies (C)/.
 - A. ABC, EFDG
 - B. DGFE, BAC
 - C. BAC, FDEG
 - D. FDGE, CBA
 - E. None of the above

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

6. Due to me being a new comer, (A)/ I was unable (B)/ to get a good house. (C)/ No Error(D)
7. The circulation of the Statesman (A)/ is greater than (B)/ that of any newspaper. (C)/ No Error. (D)
8. In the garden (A)/ were the more beautiful flowers (B)/ and silver bells. (C)/ No Error. (D)
9. The poet (A)/ describes about (B)/ the spring season. (C)/ No Error. (D)
10. **Find the correctly spelt word**
 - A. Libary
 - B. Parliemant
 - C. Playwright
 - D. Promis

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

The year-on-year inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index eased by almost 160 basis points in October, to 7.01%, **(1)/** Retail inflation, or price gains based on the Consumer Price Index, slowed to 6.77% last month, from September's 7.41%, aided by an appreciable deceleration in food price inflation. **(2)/** October's inflation data point to a welcome softening in price gains that should offer some **succour** to monetary policy authorities, who have been battling to rein in runaway inflation since the beginning of this year. **(3)/** from the preceding month's 8.60%, helped by a "decline in prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses and oils and fats", the Government said. **(4)/** With the food and beverages sub-index representing almost 46% of the CPI's weight, the slowdown in food price gains understandably steered overall inflation lower even as price gains in three other essential categories, namely clothing and footwear, housing, and health, remained either little changed from September or quickened. Inflation at the wholesale prices level also continued to decelerate, with the headline reading easing into single digits for the first time in 19 months. A favourable base effect along with a distinct **(a)** in international prices of commodities including crude oil and steel amid gathering uncertainty in advanced economies was largely instrumental in tempering wholesale price gains.

Still, a closer look at sequential trends in retail inflation, especially in food items, **(b)** the imperative for policymakers to remain watchful. While year-on-year inflation in vegetable prices slowed sharply to 7.77% last month, from September's **(c)** 18% pace, the month-on-month gains accelerated to a four-month high of 4.1% and point to concerns that the supply disruptions caused by unseasonal rains in vegetable-growing regions as well as logistical difficulties posed by monsoon flooding may continue to keep prices volatile, at least in the near term. Prices of staple cereals including rice **(A)/** and wheat also remains an object of concern, **(B)** notwithstanding the Government's concerted efforts to **(C)/** cool volatility using export control measures. **(D)/**

While inflation in the largest weight in the food basket **(d)** up to 12.1% in October, from the previous month's 11.5%, sequentially, price gains came in at 1%, moderating in pace from September. Reports of paddy crops being submerged or affected by heavy rains in different parts of the country coupled with the shortages of wheat and flour that have pushed up their prices all signal

more volatility ahead in cereal prices. With S&P Global's latest Business Outlook survey pointing to an **intensification(A)** of wage pressures and producer pass-through of costs, authorities can **ill-afford(B)** to drop their **inflation(C)** in the fight against **guard(D)**.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. A favourable base effect along with a distinct _____(a)_____ in international prices of commodities including crude oil and steel.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Cooling
- (ii) Mendicant
- (iii) Cadence
- (iv) Metamorphosis

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

12. Still, a closer look at sequential trends in retail inflation, especially in food items, _____(b)_____ the imperative for policymakers to remain watchful.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Overhaul
- (ii) Whether
- (iii) Flag
- (iv) While
- (v) Over

A. Only (i) B. Only (iii) C. Only (vi) D. Both (v) and (iv) E. None of the above

13. While year-on-year inflation in vegetable prices slowed sharply to 7.77% last month, from September's _____(c)_____18% pace, the month-on-month gains accelerated to a four-month high of 4.1%.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) Cognizant
- (ii) Opulent
- (iii) Benevolent
- (iv) Breathless

A. Only (iv) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

14. While inflation in the largest weight in the food basket _____(d)_____ up to 12.1% in October, from the previous month's 11.5%, sequentially, price gains came in at 1%, moderating in pace from September.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Ticks
- (ii) Ticking
- (iii) Ticked
- (iv) Tick

- A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (iii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

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.

Prices of staple cereals including rice(A)/ and wheat also remains an object of concern,(B) notwithstanding the Government's concerted efforts to(C)/ cool volatility using export control measures.(D)/

- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error

16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.

The year-on-year inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index eased by almost 160 basis points in October, to 7.01%, (1)/ Retail inflation, or price gains based on the Consumer Price Index, slowed to 6.77% last month, from September's 7.41%, aided by an appreciable deceleration in food price inflation. (2)/ October's inflation data point to a welcome softening in price gains that should offer some succour to monetary policy authorities, who have been battling to rein in runaway inflation since the beginning of this year. (3)/ from the preceding month's 8.60%, helped by a "decline in prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses and oils and fats", the Government said. (4)/

- A. 3214
B. 1234
C. 2134
D. 2143
E. 4321

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

SUCCOUR

- (i) The situation was made more **succour** by the fact that people had been drinking a lot of alcohol.
(ii) As data find **succour** in the fit with theory, confidence may rise that such resistance is simply wrong.
(iii) The model is not necessarily relativistic, although it gives **succour** to relativists.
- 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.

With S&P Global's latest Business Outlook survey pointing to an **intensification(A)** of wage pressures and producer pass-through of costs, authorities can **ill-afford(B)** to drop their **inflation(C)** in the fight against **guard(D)**.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. D – B
- D. C – D
- E. No arrangement

19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.

- (i) The police can't arrest the suspect in the crime.
- (ii) They have more evidence against him.

- A. Providing
- B. Although
- C. Yet
- D. Until
- E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

I have already warned you _____ your carelessness.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. With
- D. Against
- E. None of the above

Answers

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

Explanations

1. B) BJP is demanding an apology from Congress for remarks made by Rahul Gandhi in London.
 Explanation: The passage states that the deadlock in the second leg of the Budget session of Parliament is due to the BJP's demand for an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks about democratic backsliding in India made in London recently.
2. C) A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations against Adani Group.
 Explanation: The passage states that the Congress is insisting on the constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations of dubious financial transactions and dishonest business practices against the Adani Group of companies. The Congress has been seeking answers from the government on the links between public sector institutions such as the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the State Bank of India with the Adani Group.
3. C) Critical
 Explanation: Throughout the passage, the author expresses criticism towards the BJP's demand for Rahul Gandhi's apology and the government's silence on the Adani controversy. The author believes that the BJP's demand for an apology is ill-advised, and terminating Mr. Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership will further amplify the fears of a democratic deficit in India. The author also believes that the government's silence on the Adani controversy is a serious issue of governance failure, and the government, the Rajya Sabha chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker should work with the Opposition for a discussion on the issues arising out of the controversy. Therefore, the correct answer is option (C).
4. c) The need for parliamentary accountability and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations of financial scandals
 Explanation: The main theme of the passage is the need for parliamentary accountability and a JPC to probe allegations of financial scandals. The passage highlights the deadlock in the Budget session of Parliament, where the ruling BJP demands an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and Congress insists on the constitution of a JPC to probe allegations of dubious financial transactions and dishonest business practices against the Adani Group of companies. The author argues that the government's silence on the Adani controversy is a serious issue of governance failure, and the government, the Rajya Sabha chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker should work with the Opposition for a discussion on the issues arising out of the controversy. The author also suggests that there have been precedents of a JPC in cases of financial scandals, and the BJP should rise above its temptation and evolve as a true party of governance. Therefore, the correct answer is option (c).
5. **DGFE, BAC**
 At least 140 people were killed after a suspension bridge, a tourist attraction in Gujarat's Morbi town, collapsed, sending hundreds of revellers into the Machchhu river below. At least 47 of the dead were children, making it one of India's most horrendous tragedies.

6. (A) 'me' के बदले 'my' का प्रयोग होगा। ('my' will be used instead of 'me'.)
7. (C) 'any newspaper in any other newspaper' का प्रयोग होगा।
- 'any newspaper in any other newspaper' shall be used.
8. (B) 'the more' के बदले 'many/a lot of/lots of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य Positive Degree में है।
- 'many/a lot of/lots of' will be used instead of 'the more' because the sentence is in Positive Degree.
9. (B) 'about' का प्रयोग Superfluous (अनावश्यक) है और इसे हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'describe + something + to + somebody' का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे-
- He described everything to me.
- Use of 'about' is superfluous and has to be removed as 'describe + something + to + somebody' is used, eg-
 - He described everything to me.
10. **Playwright** (noun) – dramatist, writer, author, scriptwriter, screenwriter नाटककार
Correct spellings are **Library, Parliament, Promise**
11. **Cooling** (noun) – Decreasing, dampen down, abating, waning घटाव, कमी
- **Mendicant** (noun) – A beggar भिक्षुक
 - **Cadence** (noun) – Rhythm; the rise and fall of sounds ताल, स्वर का घटाना
 - **Metamorphosis** (noun) – A magical change in form; a striking or sudden change कायापलट
12. **Flag** (verb) – Indicate, signal, highlight, mark, signal संकेत करना
- **Overhaul** (verb) – recondition, renovate, refurbish, repair, revamp सुधार
13. **Breathless** (adjective) – continuously लगातार
- **Cognizant** (adjective) – Aware; conscious जानकार, परिचित
 - **Opulent** (adjective) – Luxurious धनी
 - **Benevolent** (adjective) – Generous; kind; doing good deeds भलाई करनेवाला
14. **Tick up** (phrasal verb) – To increase or go up बढ़ना
Here most appropriate answer is ticked up that is option C
15. 'Remains' के बदले 'Remain' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Sentence का subject (i.e. Prices) 'plural' है जिसके लिए plural verb का प्रयोग होगा
16. (A) **3214**
October's inflation data point to a welcome softening in price gains that should offer some succour to monetary policy authorities, who have been battling to rein in runaway inflation

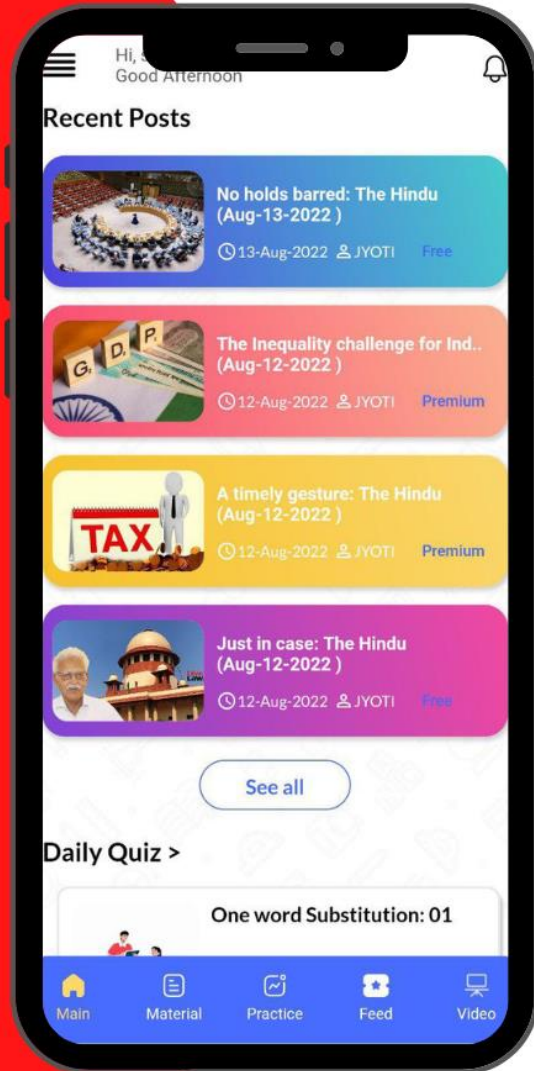
since the beginning of this year. Retail inflation, or price gains based on the Consumer Price Index, slowed to 6.77% last month, from September's 7.41%, aided by an appreciable deceleration in food price inflation. The year-on-year inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index eased by almost 160 basis points in October, to 7.01%, from the preceding month's 8.60%, helped by a "decline in prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses and oils and fats", the Government said.

17. **Succour** (noun) – help, aid, support, assist, relief, assistance राहत, सहायता

According to the given options only (ii) AND (iii) are contextually correct.

Because the (i) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
The situation was made more **volatile** by the fact that people had been drinking a lot of alcohol.

18. With S&P Global's latest Business Outlook survey pointing to an intensification of wage pressures and producer pass-through of costs, authorities can ill-afford to drop their guard in the fight against inflation.
19. The police can't arrest the suspect in the crime **until** they have more evidence against him.
20. **Warn** of (verb) – inform someone in advance of a possible danger, problem, or other unpleasant situation. आगाह करना
his father had **warned** him **of** what might happen



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