

Pause and effect: On the temporary pause to inflation-battling monetary tightening

Developments in the global financial system **have** given the Reserve Bank of India **cause** for pause

The Reserve Bank of India's **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC) has **unanimously** and **wisely** decided to apply a temporary pause to its inflation-battling monetary tightening by keeping the **repo rate** unchanged. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das was **emphatic** in **stressing** that the decision to pause was "for this meeting only", **underlining** the **commitment** to ensuring that **retail inflation** is **progressively aligned** to the mandated target of 4%. Clearly, **developments** in the global financial system, particularly the banking sector **turmoil** and the **volatility** and **uncertainty** they have **triggered**, **have weighed** heavily **on policymakers'** decision to wait and watch. **Notwithstanding** his **assertions** that India's 'banking and non-banking financial service sectors remain **healthy** and economic activity remains **resilient'**, it is the **spectre** of rising **credit costs posing** risks to both consumption demand and private investment that was a key factor in the World Bank's **calculus** earlier this week, when it cut India's 2023-24 growth **forecast** to 6.3%. With the global economy still **facing headwinds** including from **unabated geopolitical** tensions, which the World Bank warned could **result in a recession** were more shocks to occur, the RBI's policymakers have **judiciously** chosen to **subordinate** their concerns over inflation, for now, **so as to ensure** the growth **momentum** is not **undermined**.

Still, monetary authorities have only a small **window** in which to see if their **prognostication** of a **moderation** in inflation is **indeed** starting to **pan out**. With Mr. Das **acknowledging** that **core inflation** remains **elevated** across a range of goods and services and **unyielding**, the MPC faces a challenge in its **mandate** of achieving **durable disinflation**. As the RBI's latest Monetary Policy Report notes, **upside risks** to the inflation **outlook emanate** from factors including higher global crude and commodity prices and extreme weather conditions and **deficient** monsoon rains. Already, as Mr. Das acknowledged, the sudden recent **announcement** of an output cut by **OPEC+** producers **had** resulted in a jump in crude prices, which could well **upset** the RBI's assumption of crude averaging \$85 a barrel (for the **Indian basket**) this year. Similarly, **the outlook** for food prices too **is beset** with uncertainty **given** the unseasonal rains in parts of the country combined with the **likelihood** of an **El Niño**, which could raise summer temperatures and **depress** monsoon rainfall. Additionally, the RBI sees milk prices staying **firm** over the coming months **amid fodder cost pressures**. Policymakers must remember, as the RBI chief so **pithily** said, **price stability** still remains "the best guarantee for **sustainable growth**".

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'. [Practice Exercise]
- **Cause** (noun) – Reason, motive, basis, ground, कारण

Vocabulary

1. **Pause** (noun) – Halt, break, interruption, stoppage, respite विराम
2. **Inflation-battling** (adjective) – Inflation-fighting, inflation-combating, inflation-resisting, inflation-opposing, inflation-countering महंगाई से जूझ रहा
3. **Monetary tightening** (noun) – Tightening of monetary policy is implemented when the inflation is rising rapidly. When monetary policy is tightened, the interest rates are increased by the Central bank
4. **Development** (noun) – event, turn of events, occurrence, happening, circumstance घटनाक्रम
5. **Monetary policy committee** (noun) – A group of policymakers responsible for setting interest rates and implementing monetary policy to achieve macroeconomic objectives like price stability and economic growth. मौद्रिक नीति समिति
6. **Unanimously** (adverb) – consensually, without opposition, harmoniously सर्वसम्मति से
7. **Wisely** (adverb) – Prudently, judiciously, sensibly, intelligently, cautiously बुद्धिमानी से
8. **Repo rate** (noun) – The rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks in exchange for government securities, used to control money supply and inflation. रेपो दर
9. **Emphatic** (adjective) – Decisive, resolute, assertive, forceful, insistent दृढ़
10. **Stress** (verb) – Emphasize, accentuate, highlight, underline, underscore जोर देना
11. **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, underscore, stress, highlight, accentuate रेखांकित करना
12. **Commitment** (noun) – Dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, responsibility प्रतिबद्धता
13. **Retail inflation** (noun) – The increase in the general price level of goods and services that households buy, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति
14. **Progressively** (adverb) – Gradually, incrementally, sequentially, continuously, step by step थोड़ा-थोड़ा करके
15. **Align** (verb) – Adjust, coordinate, synchronize, harmonize, bring into line संरेखित करना
16. **Turmoil** (noun) – Disorder, chaos, upheaval, unrest, commotion हलचल
17. **Volatility** (noun) – Unpredictability, instability, variability, changeability, fluctuation अस्थिरता

18. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Ambiguity, unpredictability, doubt, insecurity, vagueness अनिश्चितता
19. **Trigger** (verb) – Provoke, generate, initiate, spark, cause प्रेरित करना
20. **Weigh on** (phrasal verb) – Burden, trouble, worry, oppress, concern भार डालना
21. **Policymaker** (noun) – Decision-maker, regulator, authority, planner, strategist नीति निर्माता
22. **Notwithstanding** (adv./pre.) – Despite, in spite of, regardless of, even though, although फिर भी
23. **Assertion** (noun) – Declaration, statement, claim, affirmation, proclamation कथन
24. **Healthy** (adjective) – Robust, strong, fit, well, vigorous मजबूत
25. **Resilient** (adjective) – Robust, durable, strong, tough, hardy लचीला
26. **Spectre** (noun) – Threat, menace, danger, worry, खतरा
27. **Credit cost** (noun) – Borrowing expense, loan cost, interest burden, financing charge, lending fee ऋण की लागत
28. **Pose** (verb) – Present, create, cause, produce, generate खड़ा करना
29. **Calculus** (noun) – Method, system, approach, technique, process गणित
30. **Forecast** (noun) – Prediction, projection, estimate, outlook, expectation पूर्वानुमान
31. **Face headwinds** (phrase) – Encounter difficulties, confront challenges, meet resistance, face obstacles, struggle with adversity बाधाओं का सामना करना
32. **Unabated** (adjective) – Continuous, constant, incessant, unrelenting, persistent लगातार
33. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – Related to international relations influenced by geographical factors, geostrategic, political geography भू-राजनीतिक
34. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, create परिणामस्वरूप
35. **Recession** (noun) – Downturn, decline, slump, slowdown, economic contraction मंदी
36. **Judiciously** (adverb) – Wisely, prudently, sensibly, carefully, cautiously विवेकपूर्ण तरीके से
37. **Subordinate** (verb) – Make secondary, lower, demote, downgrade, treat as less important छोटा करना
38. **So as to** (phrase) – In order to, with the intention of, for the purpose of ताकि
39. **Ensure** (verb) – Guarantee, secure, make certain, make sure, confirm सुनिश्चित करना

40. **Momentum** (noun) – Energy, force, power, impetus, drive गति
41. **Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, impair, erode, sabotage, damage कमज़ोर करना
42. **Window** (noun) – Opportunity, chance, opening, possibility, time frame मौका
43. **Prognostication** (noun) – Prediction, forecast, prophecy, projection, anticipation भविष्यवाणी
44. **Moderation** (noun) – Restraint, self-control, temperance, balance, prudence संयम, संतुलन
45. **Indeed** (adverb) – In fact, actually, truly, really, undoubtedly निश्चित रूप से
46. **Pan out** (phrasal verb) – Turn out, develop, evolve, unfold, transpire सफल होना
47. **Acknowledge** (verb) – Admit, accept, recognize, concede, grant मानना
48. **Core inflation** (noun) – A measure of inflation that excludes temporary price fluctuations in certain volatile items like food and energy, focusing on the underlying and persistent trends in price changes. मूल बढ़ोतरी
49. **Elevated** (adjective) – Raised, heightened, increased, escalated, boosted बढ़ा हुआ
50. **Unyielding** (adjective) – Inflexible, unrelenting, stubborn, uncompromising, resolute अटल
51. **Mandate** (noun) – Authority, directive, instruction, command, order आदेश
52. **Durable** (adjective) – Long-lasting, enduring, stable, persistent, lasting स्थायी
53. **Disinflation** (noun) – A slowdown in the rate of inflation, where the increase in the general price level of goods and services is still positive but decreasing. मुद्रास्फीति की कमी
54. **Upside risk** (noun) – The possibility that an economic variable, such as inflation or growth, may outperform expectations, resulting in a better outcome than anticipated.
55. **Outlook** (noun) – Forecast, projection, prediction, expectation, perspective दृष्टिकोण
56. **Emanate** (from) (verb) – Originate, emerge, arise, come from, stem from उत्पन्न होना
57. **Deficient** (adjective) – Insufficient, inadequate, lacking, scarce, short अपूर्ण
58. **OPEC+** (noun) – A group of oil-producing countries consisting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and additional non-OPEC countries, which collaborate to manage oil production and stabilize oil prices. ओपेक+ (पेट्रोलियम निर्यातक देशों का संगठन)

59. **Upset** (verb) – Disrupt, disturb, unsettle, unbalance, throw off balance उलट देना
60. **Indian basket** (noun) – A weighted average of the prices of crude oil from various sources, used as a benchmark to determine the price of crude oil for Indian refiners
61. **Beset** (with) (verb) – Plagued by, afflicted by, troubled by, burdened by, beset by घिरा हुआ
62. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, in view of, bearing in mind, with regard to देखते हुए
63. **Likelihood** (noun) – Probability, possibility, chance, odds, prospect संभावना
64. **El Nino** (noun) – A climate phenomenon characterized by unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which can cause extreme weather events and affect global climate patterns
65. **Depress** (verb) – Lower, reduce, decrease, diminish, lessen कम करना
66. **Firm** (adjective) – Steady, stable, secure, unshakable, solid सख्त
67. **Amid** (preposition) – Among, surrounded by, in the midst of, between के बीच
68. **Fodder** (noun) – Feed, food, forage, provender, sustenance चारा
69. **Cost pressure** (noun) – The financial strain experienced by businesses or industries due to factors like increased input prices, labor costs, or changes in government regulations that lead to higher operating costs.
70. **Pithily** (adverb) – Concisely, succinctly, tersely, briefly, compactly संक्षेप में
71. **Price stability** (noun) – A situation in which the general price level of goods and services remains relatively constant over time, leading to low and stable inflation, which is beneficial for economic growth
72. **Sustainable** (adjective) – Long-lasting, enduring, viable, permanent टिकाऊ

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Summary of the Editorial

1. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to temporarily pause its inflation-fighting monetary tightening by keeping the repo rate unchanged.
2. The decision to pause is only for the current meeting, with a commitment to align retail inflation with the mandated target of 4%.
3. Global financial developments, banking sector turmoil, and uncertainty influenced the decision to wait and watch.
4. Despite the RBI Governor's assurances of a healthy financial sector, rising credit costs pose risks to consumption demand and private investment.
5. The World Bank has reduced India's 2023-24 growth forecast to 6.3%, due to various risks and potential recession from geopolitical tensions.
6. The RBI has chosen to focus on growth momentum, temporarily setting aside concerns over inflation.
7. The MPC has a limited window to see if inflation moderates as they anticipate.
8. Core inflation remains elevated, and the MPC faces a challenge in achieving durable disinflation.
9. Inflation risks include higher global crude and commodity prices, extreme weather conditions, and deficient monsoon rains.
10. Uncertainty around food prices is also a concern, with unseasonal rains and potential El Niño effects.
11. Policymakers must prioritize price stability as the best guarantee for sustainable growth.

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Practice Exercise

1. According to the passage, what is the main reason behind the Reserve Bank of India's decision to temporarily pause its inflation-battling monetary tightening? [Editorial Page]
 - A. To protect the banking sector from turmoil
 - B. To promote private investment and consumption demand
 - C. To respond to developments in the global financial system
 - D. To stabilize the Indian currency
2. What factors are mentioned in the passage as potential upside risks to the inflation outlook in India?
 - A. Higher global crude and commodity prices, extreme weather conditions, and deficient monsoon rains
 - B. A decline in the repo rate, weak economic growth, and global geopolitical tensions
 - C. Increased milk prices, unseasonal rains, and El Niño
 - D. The OPEC+ output cut, the World Bank's growth forecast, and rising credit costs
3. What is the tone of the passage concerning the Reserve Bank of India's decision to temporarily pause monetary tightening?
 - A. Critical
 - B. Pessimistic
 - C. Supportive
 - D. Neutral
4. What is the main theme of the passage?
 - A. The consequences of global financial turmoil on India's economy
 - B. The importance of price stability for sustainable growth
 - C. The temporary pause to inflation-battling monetary tightening by the Reserve Bank of India
 - D. The impact of climate change on India's economic outlook
5. Which of the following statements is **INCORRECT** based on the passage?
 - A. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously decided to temporarily pause monetary tightening.
 - B. The World Bank cut India's 2023-24 growth forecast to 6.3% due to concerns over rising credit costs.
 - C. The recent output cut by OPEC+ producers led to a decrease in crude prices.
 - D. The outlook for food prices in India is uncertain due to unseasonal rains and the possibility of an El Niño event.
6. Which of the following is a synonym for the word "**headwinds**" as used in the passage?
 - A. Challenges
 - B. Assistance
 - C. Tailwinds
 - D. Rewards
7. Which of the following words is a synonym for "**prognostication**" as used in the passage?
 - A. Anticipation

- B. Hesitation
C. Misinterpretation
D. Underestimation
8. Which of the following is an antonym for the word "**unabated**" as used in the passage?
A. Continuous
B. Weakened
C. Intensified
D. Persistent
9. Which of the following is an antonym for the word "**unyielding**" as used in the passage?
A. Flexible
B. Stubborn
C. Inflexible
D. Rigid
10. What is the meaning of the phrase "**facing headwinds**" as used in the passage?
A. Experiencing favorable conditions for growth
B. Encountering obstacles or challenges
C. Benefiting from strong tailwinds
D. Avoiding any significant difficulties
11. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**
- P.** This is the second time in a year that the Centre has reduced areas under AFSPA in the Northeast.
- Q.** The decision to withdraw AFSPA, though in an incremental manner, is welcome.
- R.** The prevalence of insurgencies in almost all states in the Northeast — from the Naga rebellion that dates back to the 1940s, to the Mizo uprising in the 1960s, radical Left groups in Manipur in the 1970s, and the ULFA in Assam in the 1980s — may arguably have necessitated the imposition of the AFSPA.
- S.** The Centre on Saturday lifted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from more police station limits in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.
- T.** It sends out a positive message in a region that has had to bear the burden of the draconian Act for decades.
- A.RTSPQ B.SPQTR C.RPSQT D.PQRST
12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**
- P.** The pace of increase in GHG emissions has come down in the past five years, the panel comprising some of the world's top climate scientists points out.
- Q.** However, the world is perilously close to exhausting its carbon budget.
- R.** A synthesis of the earlier studies, it gives the world a chance to stem the crisis.
- S.** The fourth report in the series was released on Tuesday.
- T.** Between August 2021 and April 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published three reports which laid out the science behind the climate emergency and suggested pathways to mitigate it.
- A.TSRPQ B.SPQTR C.RPSQT D.PQRST

13. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. Considering the current developments in food technology, one might wonder why science fiction writers ever imagined that,
- Q. in the future, we would all be eating food in the form of pills or chugging bottles of colourless liquid containing all the nutrients a human could need
- R. The appeal of food that looks like food is far from disappearing
- S. Even using the latest technology, scientists try to recreate familiar flavours, textures and shapes
- T. Just look at the team of engineers at Columbia University that put cartridges filled with biscuit paste, peanut butter, strawberry jam, Nutella, banana puree, cherry drizzle and frosting into a 3D printer to produce a cheesecake

A.RTSPQ

B.SPQTR

C.RPSQT

D.PQRST

14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. Is it any wonder that Finland is, for the sixth year in a row, the happiest country in the world?
- Q. The ranking uses six key factors to measure happiness — social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- R. A swim in the cool waters of a lake during the hot summer months, berry-picking and mushroom foraging in the forests and a sauna with friends and family every Saturday.
- S. According to the World Happiness Report 2023, published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, few people on the planet are as happy as the Scandinavians, with Denmark at number two and Iceland in the third spot.
- T. The other two nations of the region, Sweden and Norway, are at six and seven, respectively.

A.RTSPQ

B.SPQTR

C.RPSQT

D.PQRST

15. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. The planned allocations, earnings and expenditures of governments are — they should be — challenged in the legislature and other public forums by a vigilant Opposition
- Q. The delayed approval for the tabling of Delhi government's budget by the Union Home Ministry, with Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena appearing to deliberately dawdle over it,
- R. This latest episode is part of a larger pattern of attrition between the AAP government in Delhi and the BJP-led government at the Centre
- S. The task of the Opposition cannot be, however, to pose hurdles in the elected government's presentation of the budget
- T. Reinforces the impression that procedural technicalities are being weaponised by the Centre for political ends

A.RTSPQ

B.SPQTR

C.PSQTR

D.PQRST

Comprehension

It is _____ 1 _____ how something that is stridently 'good' in ethical and legal terms can run _____ 2 _____ a wall of opposition built on narrow professional and commercial interests. As in the case of the Right to Health Act that was passed in Rajasthan last week, and the unprecedented _____ 3 _____ that followed, with doctors in the State _____ 4 _____ protesting what they called a 'draconian law'. The Right to Health is in sync with the

constitutional guarantee of right to life, and other components of the Directive Principles. That no person seeking health care should be denied it, on the grounds of access and affordability, is an acceptable proviso. The Rajasthan Right to Health Act, 2022, addresses these key issues of access and affordability. It “seeks to provide protection and fulfilment of rights, equity in relation to health and well-being for achieving the goal of health care for all through guaranteed access to quality health care for all residents of the State, without any _____ 5 _____ out-of-pocket expenditure”. The law, which also provides for a social audit and grievance redress, gives every resident of the State the right to emergency treatment without paying a single paisa to any health-care institution, and specifies that private health-care institutions would be compensated for the charges incurred for such treatment.

16. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.

- A. Ruling
- B. Debilitating
- C. Reassuring
- D. Confounding

17. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.

- A. Into
- B. Out
- C. Of
- D. In

18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.

- A. Staple
- B. Stockpile
- C. Kerfuffle
- D. Angle

19. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.

- A. Apparently
- B. Vehemently
- C. Overtly
- D. Persistently

20. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.

- A. Barbaric
- B. Pragmatic
- C. Toxic
- D. Catastrophic

Directions (21-23): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

21. One who is revengeful

- A. Fruiterur
- B. Gladiator

- C. Vindictive
- D. Abstruse

22. **Vagabond**

- A. A person who lives a wandering life
- B. A large entrance or reception room or area
- C. One who treats cancer patients
- D. One who comes from a village and considered stupid

23. **Person who is opposed to enlightenment**

- A. Obscurantist
- B. Indispensable
- C. Arbitrator
- D. Impracticable

Directions (Q24– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

24. Citizens cannot afford (A)/ to take the law (B)/ out of their hands. (C)/no error(D)
25. The relatives of the deceased (A)/ threatened to avenge (B)/ his death. (C)/no error(D)

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Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]**Explanations**

1. c) To respond to developments in the global financial system
 Explanation: The passage states that developments in the global financial system, particularly the banking sector turmoil and the volatility and uncertainty they have triggered, have weighed heavily on policymakers' decision to wait and watch, leading to the temporary pause.
2. a) Higher global crude and commodity prices, extreme weather conditions, and deficient monsoon rains
 Explanation: The passage states that the RBI's latest Monetary Policy Report notes the upside risks to the inflation outlook emanate from factors including higher global crude and commodity prices and extreme weather conditions and deficient monsoon rains
3. c) **Supportive**
 Explanation: The passage describes the decision to pause monetary tightening as "unanimous" and "wise." It also acknowledges the challenging circumstances that policymakers face and how they have "judiciously chosen" to prioritize growth over inflation concerns for the time being. This indicates a supportive tone.
4. c) The temporary pause to inflation-battling monetary tightening by the Reserve Bank of India
 Explanation: The passage primarily discusses the decision by the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee to temporarily pause its inflation-battling monetary tightening. The passage explains the rationale behind the decision, the challenges faced by policymakers, and the factors influencing their choices.
5. c) The recent output cut by OPEC+ producers led to a decrease in crude prices.
 Explanation: The passage states that the recent announcement of an output cut by OPEC+ producers resulted in a jump in crude prices, not a decrease. This sudden increase in prices could potentially upset the RBI's assumption of crude averaging \$85 a barrel for the Indian basket this year.
6. a) **Challenges**
 Explanation: In the passage, "headwinds" refers to the difficulties or obstacles faced by the global economy.
7. a) **Anticipation**
 Explanation: In the passage, "prognostication" refers to the prediction or forecast made by the monetary authorities regarding the moderation in inflation. A synonym for "prognostication" in this context is "anticipation".
8. b) **Weakened**
 Explanation: In the passage, "unabated" is used to describe the ongoing geopolitical tensions affecting the global economy. The word "weakened" is an antonym, as it implies a decrease in intensity or strength, which is the opposite of continuing without any reduction.

9. a) **Flexible**

Explanation: In the passage, "unyielding" is used to describe the elevated core inflation across a range of goods and services. An antonym for "unyielding" in this context is "flexible," which means easily adaptable or adjustable.

10. b) Encountering obstacles or challenges

Explanation: In the passage, the phrase "facing headwinds" is used to describe the challenges the global economy is dealing with, such as unabated geopolitical tensions. In this context, "facing headwinds" means that the global economy is encountering obstacles or challenges that could have adverse effects on its growth and stability.

11. B) **SPQTR**

The Centre on Saturday lifted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from more police station limits in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. This is the second time in a year that the Centre has reduced areas under AFSPA in the Northeast. The decision to withdraw AFSPA, though in an incremental manner, is welcome. It sends out a positive message in a region that has had to bear the burden of the draconian Act for decades. The prevalence of insurgencies in almost all states in the Northeast — from the Naga rebellion that dates back to the 1940s, to the Mizo uprising in the 1960s, radical Left groups in Manipur in the 1970s, and the ULFA in Assam in the 1980s — may arguably have necessitated the imposition of the AFSPA.

12. A) **TSRPQ**

Between August 2021 and April 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published three reports which laid out the science behind the climate emergency and suggested pathways to mitigate it. The fourth report in the series was released on Tuesday. A synthesis of the earlier studies, it gives the world a chance to stem the crisis. The pace of increase in GHG emissions has come down in the past five years, the panel comprising some of the world's top climate scientists points out. However, the world is perilously close to exhausting its carbon budget.

13. D) **PQRST**

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14. C) **RPSQT**

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with Denmark at number two and Iceland in the third spot. The ranking uses six key factors to measure happiness — social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption. The other two nations of the region, Sweden and Norway, are at six and seven, respectively.

15. C) **PSQTR**

The planned allocations, earnings and expenditures of governments are — they should be — challenged in the legislature and other public forums by a vigilant Opposition. The task of the Opposition cannot be, however, to pose hurdles in the elected government's presentation of the budget. The delayed approval for the tabling of Delhi government's budget by the Union Home Ministry, with Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena appearing to deliberately dawdle over it, reinforces the impression that procedural technicalities are being weaponised by the Centre for political ends. This latest episode is part of a larger pattern of attrition between the AAP government in Delhi and the BJP-led government at the Centre

16. **Confounding** (adjective) – baffling, perplexing, puzzling, bewildering, mystifying उलझन

- **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling, सत्तारूढ़
- **Debilitating** (adjective) –weakening, enfeebling; tending to weaken something (to the severe negative impact) दुर्बल करने वाला
- **Reassuring** (adjective) – restoring or boosting confidence; certainty, encouraging आश्वासनपूर्ण

17. **Run into** (phrasal verb) – to encounter unexpectedly; encounter, face, meet, confront, experience सामना करना

18. **Kerfuffle** (noun) – commotion, fuss, disturbance, uproar, turmoil खलबली

- **Staple** (noun) – Necessary or important, especially regarding food or commodities मुख्य खाद्य आहार
- **Stockpile** (noun) – a large accumulated pile of something भंडार
- **Angle** (noun) – perspective, way of looking at something, point of view, दृष्टिकोण

19. **Vehemently** (adverb) – passionately, fervently, intensely, strongly, forcefully ज़ोरदार ढंग से

- **Apparently** (Adverb) – seemingly, evidently, it seems, it appears, ostensibly स्पष्ट रूप से
- **Overtly** (adverb) – openly, clearly, plainly, publicly खुलेआम, स्पष्ट रूप से
- **Persistently** (adverb) – In a persistent manner; continuously. लगातार

20. **Catastrophic** (adjective) – disastrous, calamitous, ruinous, devastating विपत्तिपूर्ण, आफ़त भरा

- **Barbaric** (adjective) – savage, brutal, uncivilized, inhuman बर्बर/ अशिष्ट
- **Pragmatic** (adjective) – practical, matter-of-fact, realistic, sensible व्यावहारिक
- **Toxic** (adjective) – noxious, virulent विषैला

21. **Vindictive** – One who is revengeful प्रतिशोधी

- **Fruiterur** – One who deal in fruits फल बेचनेवाला
- **Gladiator** – a man trained to fight with weapons against other men or wild animals in an arena. तलवार चलानेवाला
- **Abstruse** – Hard to understand अव्यक्त /अति गूढ़

22. **Vagabond** – A person who lives a wandering life आवारा

- **Anteroom** – A large entrance or reception room or area गलियारा
- **Oncologist** – One who treats cancer patients
- **Bumpkin** – One who comes from a village and considered stupid बेढंग आदमी

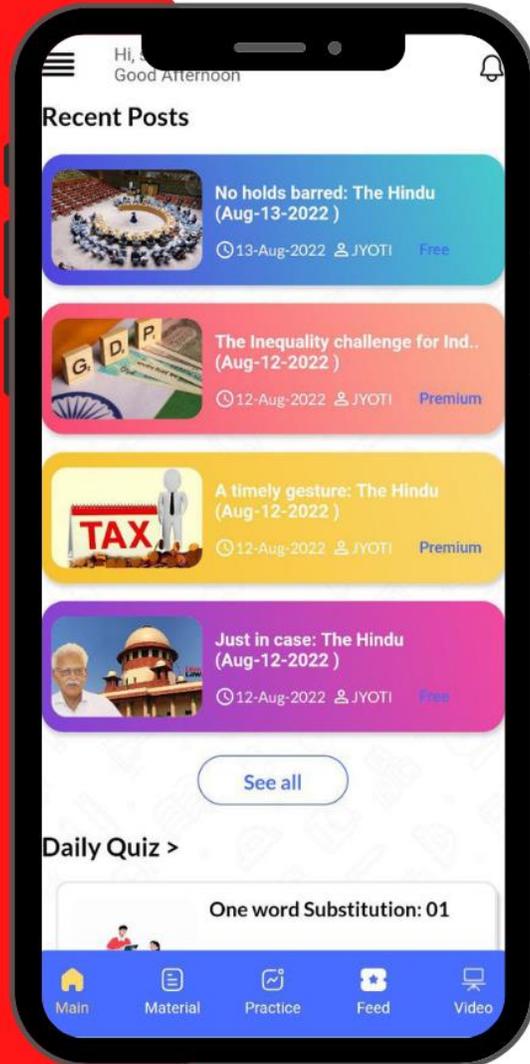
23. **Obscurantist** – Person who is opposed to enlightenment प्रगतिविरोधी

- **Impracticable** – That cannot be put into practice अव्यवहार्य
- **Arbitrator/mediator** – One appointed by two parties to settle disputes between them मध्यस्थ
- **Indispensable** – That cannot be done without अपरिहार्य

24. (C) 'out of their hands' के बदले 'into their own hands' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'take the law into one's own hands' का अर्थ है 'कानून को अपने हाथ में लेना'

- 'out of their hands' will be replaced with 'into their own hands'.

25. (D) No error.



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