Momentum softens: On S&P Global's survey

Food inflation threatens to undermine efforts to ensure price stability

The latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's manufacturing sector and the Services Business Activity Index for the economy's broader services sector from S&P Global, posit a softening in momentum in economic activity. Its survey of about 400 manufacturers shows that production growth at major private sector factories eased marginally last month, with the June PMI reading dipping to 57.8, from 58.7 in May. On the services front, the index signalled the expansion in output decelerating to a three-month low, dragged down by activity in the transport, information and communication sectors registering a sequential slowdown. The softer readings of the manufacturing and services indices for June can be attributed to a large extent to their multi-year peaks in May and April, respectively, especially when the **underlying constituents** of the index are viewed separately. While manufacturing PMI surged to a 31-month high in May, the index for services had in April registered its highest seasonally adjusted figure in almost 13 years. June's data show that new orders at factories, which constitute about 30% of the manufacturing PMI's weight, grew at the strongest pace in 28 months, while demand and higher labour costs spurred charge inflation — the rate of increase in prices of manufacturers' finished goods — to a 13-month high. Similarly, service providers noted a quicker expansion in intake of new business, pointing to demand remaining robust, and **buoying** firms' confidence in growth **prospects** to the highest level in 2023.

On the face of it, S&P Global's survey findings ought to reassure policymakers that the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-battling interest rate increases till the end of the last fiscal have still not sapped domestic demand for manufactured goods and services. However, the PMI survey panels do not include MSMEs, which collectively are estimated to contribute more than a third to the gross value added generated by the manufacturing sector as a whole. The absence of data on the MSME segment, which is a key bulwark of manufacturing employment, means that estimating the overall strength of job creation in the formal economy relying largely on PMI as an indicator may be risky. While S&P Global's surveys point to private sector employment strengthening further, with manufacturers recording a stronger expansion in jobs than service providers, CMIE data point to the June unemployment rate having spiked to 8.5%, from 7.7% in May. Policymakers will also need to keep a watch on the upward trend in output prices at manufacturers and service providers, given that the resurgence in food inflation threatens to undermine the RBI's efforts to anchor inflation expectations and ensure growth-supportive price stability.

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

Vocabulary

- Momentum (noun) impetus, energy, impulse, speed, velocity गति
- 2. **Soften** (verb) Alleviate, lessen, reduce, diminish, mitigate कम होना
- Threaten (verb) endanger, jeopardize, menace, intimidate, imperil खतरे में डालना
- Undermine (verb) weaken, impair, damage, sabotage, subvert कमजोर करना
- 5. **Ensure** (verb) Guarantee, assure, confirm, secure, warrant सुनिश्चित करना
- Price stability (noun) when the average price levels are constant for more extended period and vary slowly मूल्य स्थिरता
- Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) (noun)

 An index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. It is a key barometer of economic activity
- Posit (verb) Propose, suggest, put forward, present, submit प्रस्तावित करना, पेश करना
- 9. **Softening** (noun) Easing, lessening, reduction, alleviation, mitigation कमी
- 10. **Ease** (verb) lessen, diminish, lighten, decrease कम करना

- 11. **Marginally** (adverb) Slightly, somewhat, to a small extent, to a limited degree, to a certain degree मामूली
- 12. **Reading** (noun) a figure or amount; measurement, indicator, gauge, record, result
- 13. **Dip** (verb) Decrease, decline, drop, fall, reduce घटना
- 14. **Front** (noun) Aspect, side, facet, feature ਪहल੍
- 15. **Signal** (verb) Indicate, suggest, hint, intimate संकेत देना
- 16. **Expansion** (noun) Growth, increase, enlargement, extension वृद्धि
- 17. **Decelerate** (verb) slow down, slow, brake, retard गिरावट होना
- 18. **Drag down** (phrasal verb) bring someone or something to a lower level or standard नीचे धकेलना
- 19. **Register** (verb) Record, enter, inscribe, note down दर्ज करना
- 20. **Sequential** (adjective) Consecutive, successive, following, in sequence क्रमिक
- 21. **Slowdown** (noun) A decline in economic activity. मंदी
- 22. **Indices** (noun) Indicators, measures, gauges, markers सूचकांक

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- 23. (be) **Attributed** (to) (verb) Ascribe, credit, accredit, assign जिम्मेदार ठहराना
- 24. **To a large extent** (phrase) Mostly, largely, predominantly, for the most part काफी हद तक
- 25. **Peak** (noun) the point of highest activity चरम पर
- 26. **Underlying** (adjective) Fundamental, basic, primary, principal, intrinsic ब्नियादी
- 27. **Constituent** (noun) Component, element, part, ingredient ঘ**ে**ক
- 28. **Surge** (verb) Escalate, rocket, soar, shoot up, rise rapidly तेजी से बढ़ना
- 29. **Constitute** (verb) Form, compose, make up, represent बनाना
- 30. **Weight** (noun) Importance, significance, influence, value प्रभाव
- 31. **Pace** (noun) Speed, rate, tempo, velocity गति
- 32. **Spur** (verb) Stimulate, encourage, prompt, inspire उकसाना
- 33. Intake (noun) supply, consumption खपत
- 34. **Robust** (adjective) Strong, sturdy, tough, resilient मजबूत
- 35. **Buoy** (verb) Boost, uplift, encourage, support ৰઢালা

- 36. **Prospect** (noun) Possibility, likelihood, potential, chance संभावना
- 37. **On the face of it** (phrase) Apparently, seemingly, ostensibly, on the surface प्रकट रूप से
- 38. **Findings** (noun) Conclusions, results, outcomes, discoveries नतीजे
- 39. **Ought to** (modal verb) Should, must करना चाहिए
- 40. **Reassure** (verb) Comfort, encourage, uplift, soothe आश्वस्त करना
- 41. **Policymaker** (noun) Lawmaker, legislator, decision maker नीति निर्माता
- 42. **Fiscal** (noun) Financial year (1 April to 31 March)
- 43. **Sap** (verb) Weaken, enervate, tire, exhaust कमजोर बनाना
- 44. **Gross value added** (noun) The measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy
- 45. **Bulwark** (noun) Protection, safeguard, guard, shield स्रक्षा
- 46. **Formal economy** (noun) The legal economy that is taxed and monitored by a government
- 47. **Rely** (on) (verb) Depend (on), count (on), trust (in) निर्भर होना

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- 48. **Strengthen** (verb) Enhance, fortify, reinforce, consolidate मजबूत करना
- 49. **Spike** (verb) Increase sharply, surge, rise up अचानक बढ़ना
- 50. **Keep a watch on** (phrase) Monitor, observe, track, keep an eye on निगरानी रखना
- 51. **Given** (preposition) Considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते ह्ए
- 52. **Resurgence** (noun) Revival, recovery, comeback, rebirth पुनरुत्थान
- 53. **Anchor** (verb) Fix (a price, rate, or amount) at a particular level स्थिर करना

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Summary of the Editorial

- 1. The latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's manufacturing sector and the Services Business Activity Index from S&P Global suggest a softening in economic momentum.
- 2. The survey, conducted among 400 manufacturers, shows marginal easing in production growth in June, with PMI reading at 57.8, down from 58.7 in May.
- 3. The Services Business Activity Index signals a deceleration in output expansion to a three-month low, with the transport, information, and communication sectors experiencing a slowdown.
- 4. The softer readings of the manufacturing and services indices for June can be attributed largely to their multi-year peaks in May and April respectively.
- 5. Manufacturing PMI had surged to a 31-month high in May, while the services index registered its highest seasonally adjusted figure in almost 13 years in April.
- 6. June's data reveals that new orders at factories, making up about 30% of manufacturing PMI's weight, grew at the strongest rate in 28 months.
- 7. Demand and higher labor costs spurred charge inflation the rate of price increase for manufacturers' finished goods to a 13-month high.
- 8. Service providers experienced a quicker expansion in new business intake, indicating robust demand and boosting firms' confidence in growth prospects.
- 9. S&P Global's survey findings should theoretically reassure policymakers that the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-controlling interest rate increases have not dented domestic demand for manufactured goods and services.
- 10. However, PMI survey panels do not include Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which contribute significantly to the gross value added generated by the manufacturing sector.
- 11. Absence of data on the MSME sector, a crucial source of manufacturing employment, suggests that relying solely on PMI as an indicator may not give an accurate representation of job creation in the formal economy.
- 12. S&P Global's surveys indicate private sector employment strengthening, with manufacturers recording a stronger expansion in jobs than service providers.
- 13. Contrarily, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data suggest that the unemployment rate increased to 8.5% in June, from 7.7% in May.
- 14. Policymakers need to monitor the upward trend in output prices at manufacturers and service providers.
- 15. The resurgence in food inflation could threaten the Reserve Bank of India's efforts to anchor inflation expectations and ensure price stability conducive to growth.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- 1. What can be inferred about the change in economic activity in India according to the S&P Global survey in June? [Editorial Page]
 - A. Economic activity in both the manufacturing and service sectors has significantly increased.
 - B. Economic activity in the manufacturing sector has significantly decreased, while it has remained stable in the service sector.
 - C. Economic activity in both the manufacturing and service sectors has slightly decreased or softened.
 - D. Economic activity in the service sector has significantly increased, while it has remained stable in the manufacturing sector.
- 2. What does the June data imply about the manufacturing sector in India?
 - A. New orders at factories have declined as the demand is decreasing.
 - B. The manufacturing sector is facing a crisis due to increased labour costs.
 - C. New orders at factories have grown significantly, contributing to increased prices of finished goods.
 - D. The sector is struggling due to the highest charge inflation rate in 13 months.
- 3. According to S&P Global's survey, which of the following statements is true about the recent manufacturing PMI data?
 - A. New orders at factories have diminished in the last 28 months.
 - B. The rate of increase in prices of manufacturers' finished goods is at a 13-month low.
 - C. The manufacturing PMI's weight grew strongly due to higher labor costs and demand.
 - D. New orders at factories grew at the strongest pace in 28 months.
- 4. What potential challenge is mentioned in the passage regarding the reliance on PMI data for estimating overall job creation in the formal economy?
 - A. The PMI survey panels do not include MSMEs, which are a significant contributor to the manufacturing sector.
 - B. The PMI survey panels overestimate the strength of job creation in the formal economy.
 - C. The PMI data does not account for the unemployment rate.
 - D. The PMI data is outdated and may not reflect the current situation accurately.
- 5. What tone is predominantly conveyed by the passage?
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Pessimistic
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Critical
- 6. What is the main theme of the passage?
 - A. The dire state of unemployment in India
 - B. The role of MSMEs in India's economy
 - C. The analysis of S&P Global's survey on India's economic sectors
 - D. The influence of the Reserve Bank of India on domestic demand
- 7. In the given passage, which term serves as a synonym for 'Bulwark'?
 - A. Survey

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- B. Confidence
- C. Manufacturing employment
- D. Gross value
- 8. Which word from the passage could be considered an antonym of 'Buoy'?
 - A. Undermine
 - B. Surge
 - C. Spiked
 - D. Quicker
- 9. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.

As India embraces the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology,/ more reliable cellular services would be/ the new normal in the near future/ there's a discernible buzz that faster and

- A. The new normal in the near future As India embraces the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology, there's a discernible buzz that faster and more reliable cellular services would be
- B. There's a discernible buzz that faster and As India embraces the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology, more reliable cellular services would be the new normal in the near future.
- C. As India embraces the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology more reliable cellular services would be there's a discernible buzz that faster and the new normal in the near future
- D. As India embraces the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology, there's a discernible buzz that faster and more reliable cellular services would be the new normal in the near future.
- 10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom

My day took a turn for the better when I found out I had gotten the job

- A. To become worse
- B. To become equal to someone in a competition when they had previously been winning
- C. Suddenly or unexpectedly
- D. A change that ultimately leads to a more positive outcome
- 11. Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (1 and 2) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph
 - 1. The prognosis of a normal monsoon by the IMD (India Meteorological Department) brings cheer as our agriculture is largely rain-dependent.
 - A. the long period average (LPA) of 87 cm as the other factors at play are positive
 - B. With nearly 50 per cent of the people in the country reliant on farming or farm-related jobs, bumper crops are critical not only for ensuring food for all and containing food prices but also for the Indian economy
 - C. the rainfall during the southwest monsoon would be 96 per cent of

- D. Allaying fears of El Nino, the IMD has forecast that quantitatively,
- 2. The neutral condition over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, positive Indian Ocean Dipole and lower snow cover over the Himalayas and Eurasia are expected to negate El Nino, wherein the ocean temperatures rise, causing a deficit in rains.

A. BCDA

B.ABCD

C.BDCA

D.CDBA

Find out the error, if any:

- 12. He is (A)/ too foolish (B)/ that he will not act. (C)/ No Error(D)
- He is too much worried (A)/ about his friend's reaction (B)/ to his statement. (C)/ No Error(D)
- 14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.
 - P. Taking a firm stand which could have far-reaching geopolitical implications, French President Emmanuel Macron has exhorted the European Union (EU) to implement its policy of 'strategic autonomy' and desist from following the US or China on the Taiwan issue.
 - Q. It's obvious that he wants EU to hold its ground and safeguard its interests rather than getting embroiled in the great power rivalry.
 - R. His warning about the perils of following American foreign policy as a 'panic reflex' is bound to strain US-Europe ties.
 - S. Macron has urged EU's member states to avoid becoming vassals and instead strive to make the bloc function as the 'third pole' alongside the US and China.
 - A. PSQR

B.PSRQ

C.SQPR

D.PRQS

Directions (15-16): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

- 15. A mild or indirect expression substituted for an offensive or harsh one
 - A. Informant
 - B. Euphemism
 - C. Pawn shop
 - D. Walkaway
- 16. One who has unreasoning enthusiasm for the glorification of one's country
 - A. Foster child
 - B. Effluents
 - C. Chauvinism
 - D. Ecology

Comprehension

December 2021 and December 2022 could not have been more contrasting for India's pharmaceutical industry. Last year, it was hailed for developing vaccines that inoculated billions against the coronavirus and 1 its moniker as the 'pharmacy of the world'. This year, two Indian drug-manufacturing firms stand accused by two countries of producing toxic cough syrup linked to the deaths of children — at least 66 in The Gambia and 18 in Uzbekistan. While The Gambia case was 2 by the World Health Organization (WHO), the second case has been flagged by the Uzbek Health Ministry. In both cases, it is not conclusively established that consuming the syrup directly led to the deaths. What is of concern is that in both countries,

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bat	ches were	spiked	with etl	nylene gl	ycol	or dieth	າylene g	glycol,	i.e., ind	ustrial cher	nicals	s that ha	ve
no	business	being	inside	bottles	of	cough	syrup.	The	Indian	governme	nt a	adopted	а
	3	stanc	e after t	the scand	lal in	The G	ambia. \	While	the exp	ort licence	of th	e Haryar	าล-
bas	ed Maiden	Pharm	aceutica	als Ltd., w	/hich	supplie	ed the s	yrup to	o The Ga	ambia, was	revo	ked, Indi	an
aut	horities, ra	ther th	an inves	stigating	how	the cou	ıgh syrı	ıp was	spiked	chose to	quest	ion WHO	D' s
ass	essment th	nat it wa	as the c	ough syri	up th	nat caus	ed the	acute	kidney i	njury linked	d to t	the deat	ns.
The	Drugs Co	ntroller	Genera	al of Indi	a (DO	CGI) bra	zened	it	4	with \	NHO	in a let	ter
sug	gesting tha	at its ow	n tests	of 'contr	ol sa	mples'	of the N	∕Iaider	n Pharm	a-product s	show	ed them	to
be t	free of con	taminar	nts.										

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

- 17. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.
 - A. Misplaced
 - B. Underlined
 - C. Classified
 - D. Undermined
- 18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.
 - A. Compromised
 - B. Exposed
 - C. Discredited
 - D. Highlighted
- 19. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.
 - A. Scant
 - B. Truculent
 - C. Diligent
 - D. Evident
- 20. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.
 - A. Out
 - B. In
 - C. Upon
 - D. Up

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Answers

1. C 2.C 3.D 4. A 5. C 6. C 7.C 8.A 9.D 10.D 11.C

12. B 13.A 14.B 15.B 16.C 17.B 18.D 19.B 20.A [Practice Exercise]

Explanations

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- 1. C) According to the passage, S&P Global's PMI for India's manufacturing sector and the Services Business Activity Index both indicate a softening or slight decrease in momentum of economic activity in June. The manufacturing PMI dipped from 58.7 in May to 57.8 in June, and the services index showed that expansion in output has decelerated to a three-month low.
- 2. C.) According to the passage, June's data showed that new orders at factories, which constitute about 30% of the manufacturing PMI's weight, grew at the strongest pace in 28 months. Additionally, increased demand and higher labour costs have spurred charge inflation, which refers to the rate of increase in prices of manufacturers' finished goods, to a 13-month high. Thus, these factors contribute to a significant growth in new orders at factories, leading to increased prices of finished goods.
- 3. D) is correct because the passage states, "June's data show that new orders at factories...grew at the strongest pace in 28 months". The other options are incorrect as they are either contradictory to the data in the passage or not mentioned at all.
- 4. A) The passage mentions, "However, the PMI survey panels do not include MSMEs, which collectively are estimated to contribute more than a third to the gross value added generated by the manufacturing sector as a whole." Hence, this could create a challenge in estimating the overall job creation relying largely on PMI as an indicator. The other options are not supported by the information given in the passage

5. C) Neutral

The passage predominantly conveys a neutral tone, as it provides a balanced review of S&P Global's survey. It presents the facts and figures related to the PMI for the manufacturing and services sectors and the effects on inflation and employment, without overtly expressing optimism or pessimism, criticism or praise. While the text does present some areas of concern, such as the spike in unemployment rate and the upward trend in output prices, it doesn't do so in a way that suggests a negative or critical tone, but rather as part of a balanced analysis.

- 6. C) The analysis of S&P Global's survey on India's economic sectors
 - The main theme of the passage is the analysis of S&P Global's survey on India's manufacturing and services sectors. The passage discusses the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's manufacturing sector and the Services Business Activity Index for the services sector, highlighting changes in production growth, expansion in output, and inflation. The discussion of other elements, like unemployment, MSMEs, and the RBI, are secondary themes which are linked to the primary theme of analyzing the S&P Global survey's findings.
- 7. C) Manufacturing employment

Bulwark (noun) — Protection, safeguard, guard, shield स्रक्षा

'Bulwark' means a defensive wall or something that acts as a defense. Here, 'Manufacturing employment' is used as a bulwark, or a defense, for the economy, suggesting that it is a key defensive component.

- 8. A) Undermine
 - Buoy (verb) Boost, uplift, encourage, support बढ़ाना
 - 'Buoy' means to sustain or encourage. In this passage, 'Undermine' serves as an antonym to 'Buoy' because it implies weakening or compromising something.
- 9. D) AS India embraces the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology, there's a discernible buzz that faster and more reliable cellular services would be the new normal in the near future
- 10. Take a turn for the better (Phrase) A change that ultimately leads to a more positive outcome
- 11. **C) BDCA (1BDCA2)**
 - 1: The sentence begins with the mention of a "prognosis of a normal monsoon by the IMD". IMD refers to the Indian Meteorological Department, which provides the weather forecasts
 - **B:** This sentence explains why the prognosis of a normal monsoon brings cheer as it tells about the dependency of a large number of people on farming or farm-related jobs. Hence, this sentence logically follows the first sentence, establishing a noun-pronoun relationship (prognosis - why it's important).
 - D: This sentence continues the conversation about the IMD and the forecast, therefore it is the next logical statement. It introduces a new topic, "El Nino", which is important in the context of monsoon prediction, and connects to IMD from sentence 1
 - C: The phrase "the rainfall during the southwest monsoon would be 96 per cent of" must logically follow D as it continues the narrative about the IMD's forecast, therefore establishing a logical connection through the topic of forecast. It also leaves an incomplete thought ("96 per cent of what?") which will be continued in the next sentence.
 - A: Sentence A completes the statement left by C with "the long period average (LPA) of 87 cm as the other factors at play are positive". The mention of LPA (long period average) is the continuation from the phrase "96 percent of" in C
 - 2: Finally, sentence 2 provides more information on the factors affecting the monsoon and El Nino conditions, providing closure to the paragraph
- 12. (B) Replace 'Too' with 'So'

'Adverb too always takes the preposition to

ex- He is too foolish to not act

Adverb so always takes that. Here "that" acts as a conjunction that joins two sentences together. So...that... is used to express a result.

ex- He is so foolish that he will not act.

If you don't want to use above those two adverb, too and so, you can use only very in sentence. However, very doesn't use to show a result.

- 13. He is very foolish. (A) 'too much' के बदले 'much too' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'too much + Noun' का प्रयोग होता है जबकि 'much too + Adjective/Adverb का;
 - i. My wound gives me too much pain.['pain' Noun]
 - ii. The process of growing up is much too painful.['painful-Adjective]
 - iii. She drives the car much too fast.['fast'- adverb]
 - 'much too' will be used instead of 'too much' because 'too much + Noun' is used while 'much too + Adjective/Adverb'

14. B) **PSRQ**

- **P:** This sentence serves as a good introduction as it sets the context of the entire paragraph. It introduces Macron's stance on the EU's policy regarding geopolitical autonomy
- **S:** This sentence expands on Macron's stance as introduced in sentence P. It further describes Macron's vision of the EU becoming a "third pole" along with the US and China, illustrating the concept of 'strategic autonomy' mentioned in the first sentence.
- **R:** After elaborating on Macron's vision, sentence R discusses a possible consequence of this stance straining ties with the US. It logically follows the idea of the EU avoiding becoming vassals to other global powers and instead, asserting its own autonomy
- **Q:** Sentence Q can be seen as a concluding remark, as it provides a summary of Macron's intentions as described in the previous sentences. The use of "It's obvious" indicates that it draws from the previous context, making it a suitable closing statement.
- 15. Informant A person who gives information मुखबिर
 - **Euphemism** A mild or indirect expression substituted for an offensive or harsh one प्रियोक्ति
 - Pawn shop A shop where loans are made with personal security वह स्थान जहाँ कोई महाजन लोगों की चीज़ें गिरवी रख कर उनहें बयाज पर रुपया उधार देता है
 - Walkway A passage raised above ground for people to walk रास्ता, उद्यानपथ
- 16. **Foster child** A child brought up by person who are not his parents धाय पालित संतान
 - Effluents Liquid waste that flows out from a factory अपशिष्ट पदार्थ
 - **Chauvinism** One who has unreasoning enthusiasm for the glorification of one's country अंध-देशभक्ति
 - **Ecology** A scientific study of the relationship between plants and their environment पारिस्थितिकी
- 17. **Underline** (verb) emphasize, stress on, highlight, accentuate, accent, call attention to ज़ोर देना
 - Misplaced (adjective) Inappropriate, ill-advised, unwarranted, unsuitable अनुचित
 - Classified (adjective) confidential, secret, restricted, undisclosed गुप्त

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- Undermine (verb) weaken, sabotage, damage, subvert कमजोर करना
- 18. **Highlight** (verb) underline, underscore, call attention to, focus attention on, stress, emphasize प्रमुखता से दिखाना
 - Compromise (verb) jeopardize, endanger, threaten, weaken खतरे में डालना
 - Expose (verb) Uncover, reveal, disclose, divulge प्रकाश में लाना
 - Discredit (verb) Disparage, undermine, devalue, cast doubt on बदनाम करना
- 19. Truculent (adjective) Defiant, aggressive, belligerent, fractious कठोर/ आक्रामक
 - Scant (adjective) Insufficient, meager, inadequate, sparse, limited अपर्याप्त
 - Diligent (adjective) Careful, conscientious, thorough, meticulous परिश्रमी
 - Evident (adjective) Obvious, clear, apparent, manifest
- 20. **Brazen out** (phrasal verb) to face a difficult situation confidently, without showing shame or embarrassment सामना करना



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