

Express View on inflation data: Space to pivot

Data released by the National Statistical Office on Tuesday **showed** that **retail inflation**, as measured by the **consumer price index**, **has** remained at almost the same level since the beginning of this year. Inflation stood at 5.09 per cent in February, only **marginally** lower than 5.1 per cent in January. However, the **disaggregated data points towards diverging** trends — food inflation has **edged** upwards, while **core inflation**, which excludes the **volatile** food and fuel, has **eased** further. This represents a **conundrum** for monetary policy.

As per the latest data, the consumer food price index rose to 8.66 per cent in February, up from 8.3 per cent in January. Inflation remained **elevated** in vegetables (30.25 per cent), pulses and products (18.9 per cent), eggs (10.69 per cent), cereals (7.6 per cent) and sugar (7.48 per cent). According to a note by Crisil, **inflation** in the TOP segment (tomato, onion and potato) **has** surged to 22.7 per cent. This would suggest that the **effects** of El Nino and **subdued** production **are** showing. However, at the same time, core inflation is **witnessing broad-based easing**. As per ICRA's estimate, core inflation, which excludes food and **beverages**, fuel and light and petrol and diesel for vehicles, **moderated** to 3.5 per cent in February, down from 3.7 per cent in January. Inflation has eased in clothing and footwear (3.14 per cent), household goods and services (2.82 per cent), **recreation** and **amusement** (2.71 per cent). As per these estimates, core inflation is now at its lowest level since January 2015. **Alongside**, data released by the NSO shows that industrial production slowed to 3.8 per cent in January, from 4.2 per cent in December, **driven** by subdued performance of manufacturing. As per **Crisil**, **growth** in industrial output **has** been lower in the second half of the year as compared to the first.



In its last meeting, **the monetary policy committee** had chosen to maintain the **status quo**. However, the decision was not **unanimous** as one member voted in favour of a rate cut. As per RBI **projections**, while the economy is expected to maintain its growth **momentum**, inflation is expected to **trend** lower. The central bank expects growth at 7 per cent and inflation at 4.5 per cent in 2024-25. However, there remains **considerable uncertainty** around the **trajectory** of food inflation. As greater clarity emerges over the coming months on production trends and the monsoons, it could open up space for the MPC to pivot.

[\[Audio Explanation\]](#)

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

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

Vocabulary

1. **Inflation** (noun) – Price rise, escalation, surge, hike, increase मुद्रास्फीति
2. **Space** (noun) – Freedom, room, liberty, legroom, स्वतंत्रता
3. **Pivot** (noun) – begin to run or manage (something) in a completely different way. बदलना
4. **Retail inflation** (noun) – Inflation as experienced by consumers in their day-to-day living expenses खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति
5. **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** (noun) – A measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक
6. **Marginally** (adverb) – Slightly, narrowly, barely, just, minimally मामूली रूप से
7. **Disaggregated data** (noun) – Data that has been broken down into more detailed components विस्तृत डेटा
8. **Point towards** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, signal, denote, show की ओर इशारा करना
9. **Diverging** (adjective) – Separating, deviating, veering, divergent, differentiating विचलन
10. **Edge** (verb) – Move gradually, inch, creep, advance slowly धीरे धीरे बढ़ना
11. **Core inflation** (noun) – Inflation excluding food and energy prices, to provide a clearer view of the inflation trend
12. **Volatile** (adjective) – Unpredictable, unstable, changeable, variable, fluctuating अस्थिर
13. **Ease** (verb) – Reduce, lessen, alleviate, relax, diminish कम करना
14. **Conundrum** (noun) – Puzzle, problem, riddle, dilemma, quandary पहेली
15. **Elevated** (adjective) – Raised, heightened, increased, uplifted, enhanced बढ़ा हुआ
16. **El Niño** (noun) – A climate phenomenon characterized by the warming of the Pacific Ocean waters
17. **Subdued** (adjective) – Diminished, reduced, suppressed, muted, toned down मंद
18. **Witness** (verb) – Observe, see, note, experience, behold देखना
19. **Broad-based** (adjective) – Wide-ranging, comprehensive, extensive, inclusive, general व्यापक आधारित
20. **Easing** (noun) – Reduction, lessening, slackening, moderation कमी /कटौती
21. **Beverage** (noun) – Drink, liquid refreshment, libation, potable पेय

22. **Moderate** (verb) – reduce, lessen, decrease, lower, diminish कम करना
23. **Recreation** (noun) – Leisure, amusement, relaxation, entertainment, enjoyment मनोरंजन
24. **Amusement** (noun) – Entertainment, diversion, enjoyment, fun, pleasure मनोरंजन
25. **Alongside** (adverb) – Next to, beside, by the side of, adjacent to, parallel to साथ में
26. **Drive** (verb) – Propel, push, force, impel, motivate प्रेरित करना
27. **Crisil** (noun) – Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited, a global analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services
28. **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** (noun) – A committee of the central bank that is responsible for formulating monetary policy मौद्रिक नीति समिति
29. **Status quo** (noun) – The existing state of affairs, current situation, present condition, current state यथास्थिति
30. **Unanimous** (adjective) – Agreed by all, concordant, unanimous, uniform, consistent एकमत
31. **Projection** (noun) – Forecast, prediction, estimate, outlook, projection अनुमान
32. **Momentum** (noun) – Force, impetus, drive, energy, thrust गति
33. **Trend** (verb) – change or develop in a general direction.
34. **Considerable** (adjective) – Significant, substantial, appreciable, considerable, major महत्वपूर्ण
35. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Doubt, unpredictability, indecision, ambiguity, unsureness अनिश्चितता
36. **Trajectory** (noun) – Path, course, route, track, arc प्रक्षेप पथ

Summary of the Editorial

1. Retail inflation in India has remained almost stable since the beginning of the year, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 5.09% in February.
2. Food inflation increased slightly to 8.66% in February from 8.3% in January.
3. Core inflation, excluding volatile food and fuel, eased further in February.
4. High inflation was observed in vegetables (30.25%), pulses and products (18.9%), eggs (10.69%), cereals (7.6%), and sugar (7.48%).
5. Inflation in the TOP segment (tomato, onion, potato) surged to 22.7%, indicating the impact of El Nino and subdued production.
6. Core inflation, excluding food and beverages, fuel and light, and petrol and diesel for vehicles, moderated to 3.5% in February.
7. Inflation eased in categories such as clothing and footwear (3.14%), household goods and services (2.82%), and recreation and amusement (2.71%).
8. Core inflation is at its lowest level since January 2015.
9. Industrial production growth slowed to 3.8% in January from 4.2% in December, mainly due to subdued manufacturing performance.
10. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the status quo in its last meeting, with one member voting for a rate cut.
11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projects the economy to grow at 7% and inflation to trend at 4.5% in the fiscal year 2024-25.
12. There is considerable uncertainty around the trajectory of food inflation.
13. Future monetary policy decisions may be influenced by emerging clarity on production trends and monsoon patterns.
14. The divergence between food inflation and core inflation presents a conundrum for monetary policy.
15. The overall economic outlook suggests a need for cautious monetary policy, balancing growth and inflation concerns.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **As per the data released by the National Statistical Office, which of the following statements is true regarding retail inflation in India as measured by the consumer price index in the early months of this year?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Retail inflation has shown a significant increase from January to February, with a rise from 5.1 per cent to 5.09 per cent.
 - B. Retail inflation has remained relatively stable since the beginning of this year, with February inflation at 5.09 per cent and January at 5.1 per cent.
 - C. Retail inflation has decreased considerably, dropping from 5.1 per cent in January to 4.5 per cent in February.
 - D. Retail inflation has shown a fluctuating trend, with a decrease from 6 per cent in January to 5.09 per cent in February.
2. **According to the passage, which of the following categories experienced the highest inflation rate in February as per the consumer food price index?**
 - A. Vegetables experienced the highest inflation rate at 30.25 per cent, followed by pulses and products at 18.9 per cent.
 - B. Cereals experienced the highest inflation rate at 25 per cent, followed by eggs at 15 per cent.
 - C. Sugar experienced the highest inflation rate at 20 per cent, followed by household goods and services at 10 per cent.
 - D. Clothing and footwear experienced the highest inflation rate at 5 per cent, followed by recreation and amusement at 4 per cent.
3. **What does the recent data on industrial production and the monetary policy committee's decision suggest about the economic outlook?**
 - A. Industrial production slowed to 3.8 per cent in January, from 4.2 per cent in December, and the monetary policy committee chose to maintain the status quo, indicating a cautious outlook on economic growth.
 - B. Industrial production increased to 4.2 per cent in January, from 3.8 per cent in December, and the monetary policy committee decided to raise interest rates, suggesting a positive outlook on economic growth.
 - C. Industrial production remained constant at 4.2 per cent in January and December, and the monetary policy committee voted unanimously for a rate cut, indicating a stable economic outlook.
 - D. Industrial production slowed to 4.2 per cent in January, from 3.8 per cent in December, and the monetary policy committee decided to lower interest rates, suggesting a robust economic outlook.
4. **What is the tone of the passage regarding the inflation data and monetary policy?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Pessimistic
 - C. Analytical
 - D. Indifferent

5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
- A. The impact of El Niño on food prices.
 - B. The relationship between industrial production and economic growth.
 - C. The challenges faced by monetary policy in managing inflation.
 - D. The role of the consumer price index in measuring inflation.
6. **Based on the passage, identify whether the following statements are true or false.**
- A. Food inflation has remained stable, while core inflation has shown significant fluctuations.
 - B. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects the economy to grow at 7 per cent and inflation to be at 4.5 per cent in 2024-25.
- A. A is true and B is false.
 - B. A is false and B is true.
 - C. Neither A nor B is true.
 - D. Both A and B are true.
7. **Based on the passage, which of the following inferences can be made about the trends in inflation and its impact on monetary policy?**
- (i) The divergence between food inflation and core inflation poses a challenge for formulating effective monetary policy.
 - (ii) The consistent level of retail inflation since the beginning of the year indicates stability in the economy.
 - (iii) The decrease in core inflation suggests that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) might consider a rate cut in the near future.
- A. Only i
 - B. Only ii
 - C. i and iii
 - D. ii and iii
8. **Considering the data presented in the passage, which of the following inferences can be drawn about the economic conditions and the RBI's response?**
- (i) The surge in inflation in the TOP segment (tomato, onion, and potato) could be attributed to El Nino and subdued production.
 - (ii) The slowdown in industrial production in January might lead the RBI to adopt an expansionary monetary policy.
 - (iii) The RBI's projection of lower inflation in 2024-25 indicates confidence in controlling inflationary pressures.
- A. Only i
 - B. i and ii
 - C. i and iii
 - D. All of the above
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- Particularly agitations that restrict traffic movement/ cannot be sustained on emotions alone /prolonged protests,/ on a large scale and for days together,**

- A. Prolonged protests on a large scale and for days together, particularly agitations that restrict traffic movement prolonged protests, cannot be sustained on emotions alone
- B. Particularly agitations that restrict traffic movement on a large scale and for days together, cannot be sustained on emotions alone prolonged protests,
- C. Prolonged protests, on a large scale and for days together, cannot be sustained on emotions alone particularly agitations that restrict traffic movement.
- D. Prolonged protests, particularly agitations that restrict traffic movement on a large scale and for days together, cannot be sustained on emotions alone.
10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom
The promotion ***cuts both ways*** because though I'll make more money, I'll have to be away from my family more often
- A. Hold something tightly or carefully
- B. Be able to understand or solve something
- C. To pay attention to a situation carefully
- D. To have both advantages and disadvantages
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 Indian Navy pioneered indigenisation decades ago.
- A. The Navy says nearly 40 ships and submarines are being built in Indian shipyards. Named after the historic Goan port, INS Mormugao undertook her first sea sortie on December 19 last year when Goa celebrated 60 years of liberation from Portuguese rule.
- B. The commissioning of INS Mormugao is a reassuring step forward in the self-reliance programme, providing a boost to the country's maritime capability.
- C. There has been a renewed focus in recent years on ramping up development of equipment and systems.
- D. Designed by the in-house Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, over 75 per cent of its components are indigenous.
2. Second of the four Visakhapatnam-class warships, the stealth-guided missile destroyer is packed with sensors, radar and weapon systems. It's an occasion to savour.
- A. ABCD B. CBDA C. CBAD D. DABC
12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. The notion of immanence circumscribes the Ishavasya Upanishad in all of its eighteen verses,
- Q. Just as Spinoza postulated that God is not prior to or transcendent to creation but fully immanent within it,
- R. the Ishavasya Upanishad is seen to exemplify the deification of the world, in proposing the indivisibility of the impersonal Brahmn and the dynamic Shakti.
- S. postulating a life-affirming theory of creation, in contrast to the Advaitic notion of the world as a framework of illusion.
- A. PSQR B. PSRQ C. SQPR D. PRQS

13. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. This century has seen the addition of another species, black swan, to represent rare catastrophic events that engulf all financial markets.
- Q. American journalist Scott Patterson teases out the obscure world of traders and hedge funds who profit from doomsday scenarios such as the 2008 global financial crisis in Chaos Kings: How Wall Street Traders Make Billions In The New Age Of Crisis.
- R. Not everyone loses when black swans land.
- S. Stock market trends have long been associated with animal metaphors: bulls and bears.
- A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ

14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. Understandably, there's a lot of excitement about Tesla opening discussions with GOI for setting up a factory in the country with an annual capacity of 5 lakh electric vehicles – at a relatively lower price band.
- Q. But as Western manufacturers look to de-risk from Beijing, India is one of the options. New Delhi should grab the opportunities coming its way.
- R. Note that Tesla has a significant presence in China.
- S. Should the project happen, it will change the profile of local EV manufacturing and exports from India.
- A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

15. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. It would be an error of judgement to proclaim it as a vindication of safe practices being followed in drug manufacturing units and maintenance of standards.
- Q. It's not a question of India's image as the pharma hub being tarnished. Any medicine being allowed to enter the market despite falling short of standards is a crime against humanity.
- R. The clean chit to Sonapat-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals over the deaths of 66 children in the Gambia will come as a relief for India's flourishing pharma industry.
- S. The pharmaceutical sector and India's drug regulators would do themselves and the country a favour by viewing it as a moment to introspect. Both have been found wanting. Both need to draw urgent lessons and tighten controls.
- A. RPSQ B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

16. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. The emphasis on millets led to 27 per cent growth in their production in 2021-22 in India compared to 16 million metric tonnes produced the previous year.
- Q. Being the granary of millets, with an estimated share of around 41 per cent in global production, it is but natural that India should be taking the lead in promoting worldwide the use of millets in 2023 — that has been declared the International Year of Millets (IYoM) by the United Nations General Assembly.
- R. With the aim of alleviating malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency among the poor, the Government of India had introduced millets in its Poshan Abhiyan after notifying them as nutri-cereals in 2018.
- S. In fact, after having harvested success in 2018, its national year of millets, it was India that proposed the IYoM to the UN.

A. QSPR

B.PSRQ

C.QSRP

D.PQSR

Comprehension

An Israeli raid in Jenin with combat helicopters that killed seven Palestinians; a gun attack by two Palestinians at an Israeli settlement in Eli that killed four; and a _____1_____ of an Arab village by Israeli settlers in which one Palestinian was killed and several others injured — the occupied West Bank witnessed a sharp _____2_____ in violence this week that is reminiscent _____3_____ the waves of attacks and counter-attacks during the second Intifada. As Israel tightens its grip over the West Bank, where Jewish settlements have gradually _____4_____, new, local Palestinian resistance groups such as the Jenin Brigade have emerged, carrying out attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers using home-made weapons and low-tech bombs.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**

- A. Linkage
- B. Rampage
- C. Aggravate
- D. Embrace

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**

- A. Escalation
- B. Implication
- C. Ramification
- D. Fluctuation

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. Towards
- D. For

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. Mushroom
- B. Mushrooms
- C. Mushrooming
- D. Mushroomed

21. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

The availability of funds will be / ensured if they all tried to /submit the proposals on time.

- A. The availability of funds will be
- B. No error
- C. submit the proposals on time
- D. ensured if they all tried to

22. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A person who does not believe that God or Gods exist.

- A. Irreverent
- B. Atheist
- C. Profane
- D. Blasphemous

23. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Sharp practice

- A. Dishonesty
- B. Frequently
- C. Briefly
- D. Nearby

24. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

A. But the question that perturbs Ruskin's mind is what social pressure can be exercised against a dishonest person.

B. The merchant, for instance, must supply perfect and pure things to the people.

C. Ruskin believes that in every civilised society there exist five intellectual professions, namely the soldier, the pastor, the physician, the lawyer and the merchant.

D. Persons belonging to these professions are expected to perform their duty honestly.

- A. BACD
- B. DABC
- C. CDBA
- D. ABDC

25. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

A. But she has no idea an aunt and uncle are waiting for her.

B. 'The Strange Child' is the story of a young girl who believes she is the only one on the planet.

C. Her parents simply vanished into thin air one day.

D. She travels the world in search of Nevada because she aspires to reside in the Mojave Desert.

- A. DABC
- B. BDAC
- C. BACD
- D. BCDA

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) Retail inflation has remained relatively stable since the beginning of this year, with February inflation at 5.09 per cent and January at 5.1 per cent.**

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office, retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, has remained relatively stable since the beginning of this year.

Inflation stood at 5.09 per cent in February, only marginally lower than 5.1 per cent in January.

2. **A) Vegetables experienced the highest inflation rate at 30.25 per cent, followed by pulses and products at 18.9 per cent.**

As per the consumer food price index, vegetables experienced the highest inflation rate in February at 30.25 per cent, followed by pulses and products at 18.9 per cent. This reflects the elevated inflation levels in certain food categories.

3. **A) Industrial production slowed to 3.8 per cent in January, from 4.2 per cent in December, and the monetary policy committee chose to maintain the status quo, indicating a cautious outlook on economic growth.**

The data shows that industrial production slowed in January compared to December, and the monetary policy committee's decision to maintain the status quo reflects a cautious approach to the economic outlook, possibly due to uncertainties around inflation and growth prospects.

4. **C) Analytical**

The passage presents a detailed examination of the inflation data, including retail inflation, food inflation, and core inflation, along with their implications for monetary policy. It discusses the trends in inflation rates and the potential impact on future monetary policy decisions without expressing a specific positive or negative sentiment. Therefore, the tone of the passage is analytical.

5. **C) The challenges faced by monetary policy in managing inflation.**

The passage primarily focuses on the recent inflation data, the divergence between food inflation and core inflation, and the implications for monetary policy. It discusses the conundrum faced by the monetary policy committee in maintaining the status quo or adjusting rates in light of the inflation trends. Therefore, the main theme of the passage is the challenges faced by monetary policy in managing inflation.

6. **B) A is false and B is true.**

Statement A is false because the passage indicates that food inflation has edged upwards, while core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and fuel, has eased further. This suggests that food inflation has not remained stable but has increased, contrary to what the statement claims.

Statement B is true as the passage states, "As per RBI projections, while the economy is expected to maintain its growth momentum, inflation is expected to trend lower. The central bank expects growth at 7 per cent and inflation at 4.5 per cent in 2024-25."

7. A) Only i

The passage highlights a conundrum for monetary policy due to diverging trends between food inflation and core inflation. While food inflation has edged upwards, core inflation has eased further. This divergence makes it challenging to formulate a one-size-fits-all monetary policy. The passage does not necessarily indicate that the consistent level of retail inflation signifies stability in the economy (ii) nor does it suggest that the decrease in core inflation is a direct indication that the RBI might consider a rate cut in the near future (iii).

8. C) i and iii

The passage mentions that the surge in inflation in the TOP segment could be attributed to El Nino and subdued production (i). The RBI's projection of lower inflation in 2024-25 suggests that the central bank is confident in controlling inflationary pressures (iii). However, the passage does not explicitly link the slowdown in industrial production in January to the RBI's adoption of an expansionary monetary policy (ii), making option B incorrect.

9. D) Prolonged protests, particularly agitations that restrict traffic movement on a large scale and for days together, cannot be sustained on emotions alone

10. D) Cut both ways (Phrase) – to have both advantages and disadvantages: फायदे और नुकसान दोनों

11. C) CBAD

1: This sentence provides a general introduction to the Indian Navy's self-reliance program, and it sets the context. It is, thus, the starting sentence.

C: This sentence follows the first one because it refers to an advancement in the indigenisation process mentioned earlier. This shows a time sequence of the indigenisation process, which has been renewed in recent years.

B: This sentence naturally follows the previous one (sentence C), as it gives a specific example (INS Mormugao) of the recent developments in the self-reliance program.

A: This sentence provides further details about INS Mormugao, which was mentioned in the previous sentence (sentence B). It also follows the Time Sequence rule, providing a specific date when INS Mormugao undertook her first sea sortie.

D: This sentence provides additional information about INS Mormugao and its indigenisation, thus following sentence A

2: The final sentence wraps up the information and talks about the ship's capabilities and importance.

12. A) PSQR

P: introduces the Ishavasya Upanishad and the notion of immanence, but it doesn't provide any specific details yet, making it a good starting point.

S: S provides additional context on what exactly is postulated by the Ishavasya Upanishad, namely a "life-affirming theory of creation" that contrasts with the Advaitic notion of the world as illusion.

Q: Q introduces a comparison using the connector "Just as" which refers back to the notion of immanence and the theory of creation postulated by the Ishavasya Upanishad that has been established in PS. Here, Q is referencing the content from PS and is based on the idea of immanence, making it the continuation of the previously discussed topic.

R: R concludes the argument by drawing a connection between the Spinoza's postulated God (introduced in Q) and the Ishavasya Upanishad's impersonal Brahmn and dynamic Shakti, stating that the Upanishad is seen to exemplify the deification of the world.

13. D) SPRQ

S: This sentence works as a good introduction to the topic, setting up the theme of stock market metaphors.

P: This sentence naturally follows S, as it continues the animal metaphor theme by introducing the "black swan" event as a new metaphor. The use of the word "another" is a hint that it follows the sentence where other animals metaphors are already mentioned.

R: This sentence logically continues from P, discussing the outcomes (some of them positive) when a "black swan" event occurs.

Q: This sentence follows R well, offering an example (Scott Patterson's book) of people who profit from these "black swan" events. The detail about the 2008 financial crisis provides a specific instance of a "black swan" event, creating a connection with sentence R that talks about profiting from these events.

14. B) PSRQ

P: The pronoun "it" in S refers to the situation described in P, which is Tesla's plan to open a factory in India. So, S logically follows P

S: The pronoun "it" in S refers to the situation described in P, which is Tesla's plan to open a factory in India. So, S logically follows P

R: After discussing the potential impacts of Tesla's plans in India (S), it naturally follows to discuss the existing situation or precedent (R), which is Tesla's significant presence in China.

Q: 'One of the options' in Q refers to 'China' in R. Since Western manufacturers, including Tesla, are looking to de-risk from China, India comes up as an alternative. Therefore, Q logically follows R.

15. A) RPSQ

R: The paragraph starts with the most significant recent event, that Sonapat-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals has been given a clean chit over the deaths of 66 children. The location (India) and the industry (pharma) are introduced, providing a basis for the rest of the discussion

P: The 'it' in this sentence is referring to the clean chit given to Maiden Pharmaceuticals. This sentence links to the first one through the noun-pronoun relationship, with 'it' being the

pronoun referring to the event in the first sentence.

S: This sentence further elaborates on the introspection and lessons that need to be learned from the incident.

Q: This sentence sums up the essence of the argument. It highlights that the problem is not just about the image of India's pharma industry, but about a broader ethical concern of the potential for crimes against humanity.

16. C) **QSRP**

Q: The first statement, Q, sets the context by talking about India's significant contribution to global millet production and its leadership role in promoting millets worldwide, specifically in 2023 when the United Nations General Assembly has declared the year as the International Year of Millets (IYoM).

S: Statement S follows this by providing additional information on India's history with promoting millets. In sentence S, it's mentioned that India had a successful millet year in 2018.

R: In sentence R, millets are introduced as nutri-cereals, and a program (Poshan Abhiyan) related to their usage is introduced.

P: Then in sentence P, the "their" used refers to the millets mentioned in R. It speaks about the growth in production of these millets in a particular year (2021-22), which logically follows the initiatives to promote millets mentioned in the prior sentences.

17. **B) Rampage** (noun) – havoc, turmoil, frenzy, uproar, pandemonium; a period of violent and uncontrollable behaviour by a group of people. हंगामा, हिंसात्मक व्यवहार

In this context, the term 'rampage' correctly denotes an act of violent or uncontrollable behavior, suggesting that the Israeli settlers violently attacked the Arab village. The other options don't fit grammatically or contextually. 'Linkage' means connection, 'aggravate' is a verb and it means to make worse, and 'embrace' means acceptance or support, none of which fit into the sentence meaningfully.

➤ इस context में, 'rampage' सही ढंग से violent या uncontrollable behavior के एक कार्य को दर्शाता है, जो बताता है कि Israeli settlers ने Arab village पर हिंसक हमला किया था। अन्य विकल्प grammatically or contextually फिट नहीं बैठते। 'Linkage' का मतलब है जोड़ना, 'aggravate' एक verb है और इसका मतलब है बदतर बनाना, और 'embrace' का मतलब है स्वीकृति या समर्थन, इनमें से कोई भी meaningfully वाक्य में फिट नहीं बैठता है।

18. **A) Escalation** (noun) – intensification, increase, surge, amplification, augmentation तीव्रता

The term 'escalation' denotes an increase or a surge, which fits perfectly in the context as it refers to the rise in violence. The other options don't fit well in the context. 'Implication' refers to a conclusion drawn indirectly, 'ramification' refers to a consequence, and 'fluctuation' refers to an irregular rising and falling in number or amount, none of which correctly represent the increase in violence.

'escalation' शब्द वृद्धि या उछाल को दर्शाता है, जो इस संदर्भ में बिल्कुल फिट बैठता है क्योंकि यह हिंसा में वृद्धि को संदर्भित करता है। अन्य विकल्प संदर्भ में ठीक से फिट नहीं बैठते।

'Implication' indirectly निकाले गए निष्कर्ष को संदर्भित करता है, 'ramification' एक परिणाम को संदर्भित करता है, और 'fluctuation' संख्या या मात्रा में irregular rising और falling को संदर्भित करता है, जिनमें से कोई भी हिंसा में वृद्धि का सही प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करता है।

19. A) (be) **Reminiscent** (of) (adjective) – evocative, suggestive, reminiscent, reminding, recalling याद दिलाने वाला

'Of' should be used because 'of' is always used with the word 'reminiscent'. 'Reminiscent' means "reminding of something," and 'of' refers to the thing being reminded of. In contrast, the other options ('in', 'towards', 'for') do not maintain the correct grammatical coherence with 'reminiscent'.

➤ 'Of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'reminiscent' word के साथ हमेशा 'of' का प्रयोग होता है।

'Reminiscent' शब्द का अर्थ होता है "किसी चीज़ की याद दिलाने वाला", और 'of' शब्द उस चीज़ को संदर्भित करता है जो याद दिलाई जा रही है। इसके विपरीत, अन्य options ('in', 'towards', 'for') 'reminiscent' के साथ सही grammatical की coherence नहीं रखते हैं।

20. D) **Mushroom** (verb) – proliferate, burgeon, multiply, boom, expand तेजी से बढ़ना

The term 'mushroomed' in this context means rapidly increased or expanded, which correctly represents the rapid growth of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. 'Mushroom' and 'mushrooms' are nouns referring to a type of fungus, and 'mushrooming' is the present participle of the verb 'mushroom', which would not fit grammatically in this context.

➤ इस context में 'mushroomed' term का अर्थ तेजी से बढ़ा हुआ या expanded है, जो West Bank में Jewish settlements के rapid growth को सही ढंग से दर्शाता है। 'Mushroom' और 'mushrooms' एक प्रकार के fungus को संदर्भित करने वाली nouns हैं, और 'mushrooming' verb 'mushroom' का present participle है, जो इस संदर्भ में grammatically फिट नहीं होगा।

21. D) 'tried' के बदले 'try' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'will be' Future Tense में है, अतः 'if' Clause में Verb Present Tense में होगा; जैसे— If you try hard, you will succeed.

- 'try' will be used instead of 'tried' because in the main clause, the verb 'will be' is in Future Tense, so in the 'if' Clause, the Verb should be in Present Tense; Like— If you try hard, you will succeed.

22. B) **Atheist** (noun) – A person who does not believe that God or Gods exist. नास्तिक

- **Irreverent** (adjective) – Showing a lack of respect for people or things that are generally taken seriously. असम्माननी

- **Profane** (adjective) – Showing disrespect or contempt for sacred things, especially religious beliefs or practices. अपवित्र
- **Blasphemous** (adjective) – Speaking or behaving in a way that shows a lack of respect for God or religion. ईश्वरनिंदा करनेवाला

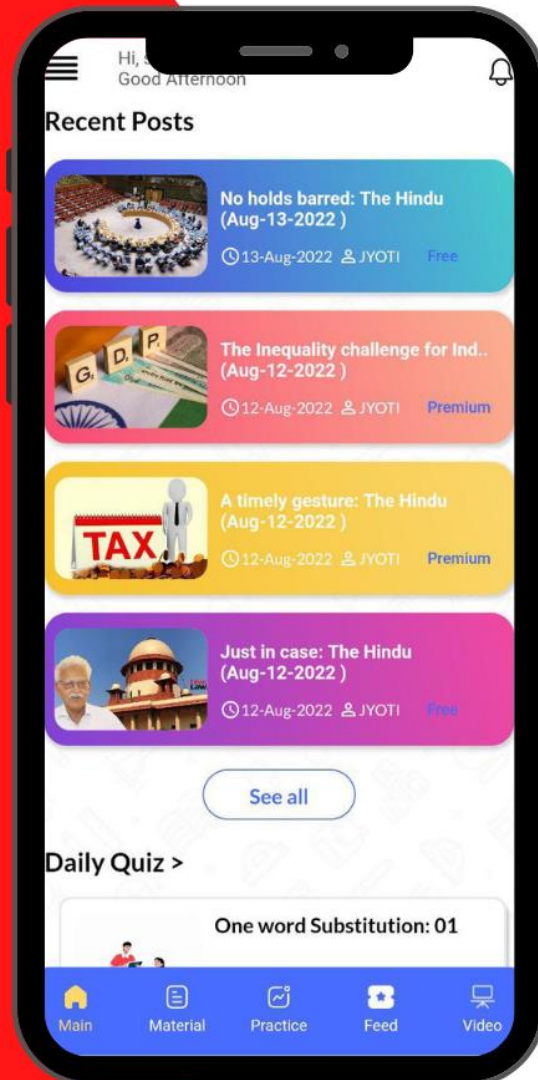
23. A) **Sharp practice** (idiom) – Dishonesty धोखाधड़ी

24. C) **CDBA**

Ruskin believes that in every civilised society there exist five intellectual professions, namely the soldier, the pastor, the physician, the lawyer and the merchant. Persons belonging to these professions are expected to perform their duty honestly. The merchant, for instance, must supply perfect and pure things to the people. But the question that perturbs Ruskin's mind is what social pressure can be exercised against a dishonest person.

25. D) **BCDA**

'The Strange Child' is the story of a young girl who believes she is the only one on the planet. Her parents simply vanished into thin air one day. She travels the world in search of Nevada because she aspires to reside in the Mojave Desert. But she has no idea an aunt and uncle are waiting for her.



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