

# EXAM GENIUS ENGLISH EDITORIAL

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## EDITORIAL 01

### Illusory blip: On inflation

*The decline in inflation offers no respite for households*

India's retail prices rose 3.54% in July, the slowest pace in almost five years, easing sharply from 5.1% in June. Food inflation, that has been high for about three years now, slid to a 13-month low of 5.4%. This is also the first time since August 2019 that inflation as per the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has aligned with the Reserve Bank of India's median inflation target of 4%. Last week, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain status quo on interest rates for the ninth consecutive time as it awaits a durable decline in the inflation rate. July's pleasant inflation numbers will not **trigger** a rethink, as the MPC has in fact, hiked its projection for this quarter's inflation average to 4.4% from 3.8%. So it expects price rise to **rebound** to well over 4% through August and September. There is good reason to see through July's print as a purely statistical outcome of base effects from last July — when the CPI was up 7.4% and food was 11.5% dearer — rather than a tangible softening of persistent price pressures for households.





Vegetable inflation, the biggest driver of last month's decline, slid from June's 29.3% spike to just 6.8% in July. But this was on top a **whopping** 37.3% rise last July, when prices of tomato, which played a key role in last month's vegetable price trend, had hit around ₹110 per kilo. Moreover, households do not feel the pinch of living costs on a year-on-year basis alone, as they need to readjust spending plans depending on how every passing month plays out. While vegetable (and tomato) prices were already high in May amid a heatwave, July's price levels are over 30% and 14% higher than May and June, respectively. Moreover, inflation in some food items, such as pulses and cereals, remains **stubborn** despite base effects. The prices of pulses rose in double digits for the fourteenth straight month, by 14.8% on top of 13.3% recorded last July. On the other hand, core inflation (excluding food and energy prices) rose for the first time since January 2023, primarily led by pricier services, including transport and communication that **sped** thanks to telecom tariff hikes. Private surveys on manufacturing and services signal a hardening of price pressures beyond food, which in turn is expected to see a meaningful **reprieve** only by October when the next harvest hits the market. While kharif sowing progress holds some hope, the September monsoon **spurt** predicted by the weatherman may yet hit



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standing crops. With the prolonged **spate** of high inflation **cramping** consumption levels, and in turn, hopes of fresh private investments, the latest optical **blip** offers neither comfort nor room for complacency.

### SUMMARY

India's retail prices rose 3.54% in July, the slowest pace in almost five years, and food inflation slid to a 13-month low of 5.4%. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the status quo on interest rates for the ninth consecutive time as it awaits a durable decline in the inflation rate. The MPC has hiked its projection for this quarter's inflation average to 4.4% from 3.8%, expecting price rise to rebound to well over 4% through August and September. Vegetable inflation, the biggest driver of last month's decline, slid from June's 29.3% spike to just 6.8% in July. Core inflation rose for the first time since January 2023, primarily driven by pricier services, including transport and communication. Private surveys on manufacturing and services signal a hardening of price pressures beyond food, expected to see a meaningful reprieve only by October when the next harvest hits the market.



## Vocabulary

### 1. Blip

**Synonyms:** Flicker, flutter, spark

**Antonyms:** Steady, constant, stable

### 2. Trigger

**Synonyms:** Catalyst, prompt, initiator

**Antonyms:** Suppressor, dampener

### 3. Rebound

**Synonyms:** Bounce, spring back, recoil

**Antonyms:** Absorb, dampen, cushion

### 4. Whopping

**Synonyms:** Huge, massive, immense

**Antonyms:** Small, tiny, puny

### 5. Stubborn

**Synonyms:** Obstinate, willful, contrary

**Antonyms:** Flexible, cooperative, compliant

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## 6. Sped

**Synonyms:** Hurried, rushed, accelerated

**Antonyms:** Slowed, delayed, hindered

## 7. Reprieve

**Synonyms:** Respite, relief, pardon

**Antonyms:** Sentence, punishment, penalty

## 8. Spurt

**Synonyms:** Surge, burst, gush

**Antonyms:** Slump, decline, slowdown

## 9. Spate

**Synonyms:** Wave, burst, flurry

**Antonyms:** Drought, lull, slump

## 10. Cramping

**Synonyms:** Spasming, convulsing, twitching

**Antonyms:** Freeing, releasing, unleashing

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## EDITORIAL 02

### Violence, most foul: On Kolkata doctor rape and murder

*The government should not wait for public outrage before it acts*

Some excesses are more excessive than others; it is fair to count rape among the most **egregious** violations of human rights. The recent horrific rape and murder of the Kolkata postgraduate medical student in what should have been a **haven** for her — a State-run hospital she was working in — must give the nation pause. The state and circumstances in which the body was found leave no room for any doubt that it was a most **dastardly** violent act, and **brazen** in that it occurred within a hall in the supposedly safe confines of the government medical college hospital. Every rape, unfortunately, is measured in severity by the amount of attention it garners from the public, and the outrage beast is selective. That is where the problem lies: even enforcement authorities seem to gauge public outrage before acting upon crimes against women. The Kolkata case was a classic example: the parents of the slain doctor were reportedly told that she had





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committed suicide initially, a **blatant** lie. Whereas, it could not have escaped the attention of anyone at the scene of crime, but particularly so medical professionals, that here indeed was **dreadful** assault and murder. Was the wilful cover-up necessitated by the fact that both the home and health portfolios are being held by none other than the Chief Minister of the State? Or to avoid responsibility for the administrative lapses that allowed such a crime to take place? The government, sadly, preferred to wait until the public outrage over the **grisly** crime became impossible to contain politically.

**Indignant** protests broke out in Kolkata and across the country, **bolstered** mostly by medical students and post graduates in hospitals, demanding safety and security as they engaged in healing people. Multiple acts of violence against doctors have **marred** the peace between doctors and patients, in the country, for years now. The murder, last year, of Dr. Vandana Das in Kerala by a patient with mental illness is recent history, but the frequent attacks on doctors and nurses during COVID-19, or when there are adverse health outcomes, have been recorded too. The Indian Medical Association has said that for doctors, pedestrian working conditions, an inhuman workload and harassment in the workplace

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are the reality, even without violence queering the pitch. The move to drop the 2019 proposal to introduce legislation to protect doctors and their workplace was a lapse, and it should be remedied forthwith. Above all, the state should proactively take steps to prevent rapes, making the punishment a **deterrent**. The nation cannot afford to fail one more doctor or hospital caregiver. Those tasked with saving lives should not have to fear for their own.

### SUMMARY

The recent rape and murder of a Kolkata postgraduate medical student in a state-run hospital is a stark example of human rights violations. The incident occurred within a hall in a supposedly safe confines of the hospital, and the government should not wait for public outrage before taking action. The case highlights the selective nature of public outrage and the government's tendency to wait until public outrage becomes uncontrollable. Indignant protests have broken out across the country, demanding safety and security for medical professionals. Multiple acts of violence against doctors have marred the peace between doctors and patients in the country for years. The Indian Medical Association has criticized the government's move to drop a 2019 proposal to introduce legislation to protect doctors and their workplace. The state should

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proactively take steps to prevent rapes and make punishment a deterrent.

## Vocabulary

### 1. Egregious

**Synonyms:** Notorious, scandalous, odious

**Antonyms:** Laudable, praiseworthy, admirable

### 2. Haven

**Synonyms:** Safety, refuge, protection

**Antonyms:** Chaos, turmoil, stress

### 3. Dastardly

**Synonyms:** Base, vile, ignoble

**Antonyms:** Brave, noble, honourable

### 4. Brazen

**Synonyms:** Blatant, glaring, flagrant

**Antonyms:** Subtle, hidden, covert

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## 5. Blatant

**Synonyms:** Glaring, overt, transparent

**Antonyms:** Ashamed, hesitant, secretive

## 6. Dreadful

**Synonyms:** Causing fear, anxiety, apprehension

**Antonyms:** Comforting, soothing, calmly

## 7. Grisly

**Synonyms:** Horrific, gruesome, ghastly

**Antonyms:** Pleasant, appealing, attractive

## 8. Indignant

**Synonyms:** Anger, outrage, irate

**Antonyms:** Calm, serene, tranquil

## 9. Bolster

**Synonyms:** Boost, enhance, augment

**Antonyms:** Diminish, reduce, impair



## 10. Marred

**Synonyms:** damaged, spoiled, blemished

**Antonyms:** Perfect, flawless, pristine

## 11. Deterrent

**Synonyms:** Warning, threat, sanction

**Antonyms:** Reward, benefit, privilege

