

Optical relief: On headline inflation

For most households, the **moderation** in headline inflation brings little **respite**

The **pace** of price rise faced by Indian consumers **eased** below the central bank's **upper tolerance threshold** of 6% in March. The 5.66% **retail inflation** level recorded in March was last seen in December 2021. That was followed by a **sustained spell** of high inflation that **escalated** after the Russia-Ukraine conflict that began in February 2022, and **peaked** at an eight-year high of 7.8% in April. Including last November and December, March **marks** only the third **occasion** in 15 months when inflation was within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) **mandated** tolerance range of 2% to 6%. **The RBI**, which had to send an explanation to the government on why the target was missed for three **successive** quarters — for the first time since the **inflation targeting framework** was introduced — **hit** a pause on interest rates this month after a **streak** of **hikes**. It now expects inflation to average 5.2% in 2023-24 (lower than the 5.3% it **projected** in February). **As it stands**, the average **inflation** between January and March **has turned out** to be 6.21%, far higher than the RBI's February **projection** of 5.9%. For the full year gone by, inflation averaged 6.66% **vis-à-vis** the 6.5% the RBI expected.

The central bank and the government may now be **sanguine** about headline inflation staying below 6%, but that is **in no small measure** due to the **statistical effects** of higher numbers from the previous year's base. In the April to June quarter, the RBI expects inflation to average 5.1%, up from 5% **predicted** two months ago — the same quarter had **clocked** a **mean** inflation of 7.28% in 2022. While the pace of price rise may slow down, prices are still rising **at a fairly significant clip**, on top of price hikes **effected** in the past year. There is no medium-term **reversal likely** in amounts people **shell out** for most goods and services, **barring** seasonally **triggered** changes in items such as vegetables. In fact, excluding vegetables whose prices have been falling year-on-year since November 2022, the **inflation** faced by consumers in March **was** still 6.6%. **Imported inflation** fell to its lowest level since November 2019 at 2.8%, which means domestic factors are still **spurring** prices around 6%. Fresh global shocks from oil prices and other unknowns may cause imported inflation to **spike** again. With cereal, spices and milk prices **on the boil** and worries about crop losses due to recent unseasonal **precipitation** (as well as fears of **El Niño** effects this year), food prices may continue to **pinch** households. There is no **room** to **let the guard down** on inflation, even if **propping up** growth is the priority. **Squeezed** consumption is **hardly** going to **inspire** investment.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Optical** (adjective) – Visual ज़ाहिर
2. **Headline inflation** (noun) – the overall inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which reflects the average change in prices of goods and services consumed by households.
3. **Moderation** (noun) – temperance, restraint, balance, control, abstinence संयम
4. **Respite** (noun) – break, pause, intermission, rest, relief विराम
5. **Pace** (noun) – speed, rate, tempo, momentum, rhythm गति
6. **Ease** (verb) – alleviate, mitigate, relieve, reduce, soothe कम करना
7. **Upper tolerance threshold** (noun) – a limit set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the acceptable range of inflation within which it aims to maintain the economy. In India, the upper tolerance threshold for inflation is currently set at 6%.
8. **Retail inflation** (noun) – the measure of the change in the price of goods and services purchased by households in a given period of time, also known as consumer price inflation.
9. **Sustained** (adjective) – continuous, ongoing, persistent, long-lasting, steady निरंतर
10. **Spell** (noun) – period, stretch, duration, phase, cycle अवधि
11. **Escalate** (verb) – intensify, increase, heighten, boost, magnify तीव्र होना
12. **Peak** (verb) – climax, top, reach a high point, zenith, apex शीर्ष पर पहुंचना
13. **Mark** (verb) – signify, indicate, denote, represent, symbolize दर्शाना
14. **Occasion** (noun) – instance, event, occurrence, episode, moment मौका
15. **Mandated** (adjective) – required, ordered, commanded, authorized, instructed - आदेशित
16. **Inflation targeting framework** (noun) – a monetary policy framework where the central bank sets an explicit target for inflation and uses its policy tools to achieve that target
17. **Hit** (verb) – implement, apply, execute, impose, enforce लागू करना
18. **Streak** (verb) – series, sequence, run, chain, string शृंखला
19. **Hike** (noun) – increase, raise, upsurge, surge, escalation वृद्धि
20. **Project** (verb) – forecast, predict, estimate, anticipate, envisage पूर्वानुमान करना

21. **As it stands** (phrase) – currently, at present, as of now, as things are, for now - जैसा कि हाल ही में हैं
22. **Turn out** (phrasal verb) – be, become, end up, prove, result साबित होना
23. **Projection** (noun) – estimation, prediction, calculation, forecast, expectation पूर्वानुमान
24. **Vis-à-vis** (preposition) – in relation to, compared with, with regard to, concerning, regarding के प्रति
25. **Sanguine** (adjective) – optimistic, hopeful, positive, confident, assured आशावादी
26. **In no small measure** (phrase) – significantly, to a great extent, largely, greatly, substantially बड़ी मात्रा में
27. **Statistical effect** (noun) – the impact of changes in statistical calculations or comparisons of data from previous periods on the current data, which can sometimes distort the actual changes in the data.
28. **Predict** (verb) – foresee, anticipate, prophesy, foretell, envisage भविष्यवाणी करना
29. **Clock** (verb) – record, register, measure, time, note
30. **Mean** (adjective) – average, median, typical, normal, standard औसत
31. **At a clip** (phrase) – at a fast pace, quickly, rapidly, swiftly, speedily तेजी से
32. **Effect** (verb) – bring about, cause, produce, create, generate प्रभावी होना
33. **Reversal** (noun) – turnaround, change, shift, alteration, transformation उलटफेर
34. **Likely** (adjective) – probable, expected, possible, plausible, anticipated संभवतः
35. **Shell out** (phrasal verb) – spend, pay, fork out, disburse, part with खर्च करना
36. **Barring** (preposition) – except for, aside from, save for, excepting, other than के अलावा
37. **Triggered** (adjective) – caused, sparked, initiated, set off, activated प्रेरित
38. **Imported inflation** (noun) – the increase in domestic inflation resulting from an increase in the prices of imported goods and services.
39. **Spur** (verb) – encourage, stimulate, incite, motivate, provoke प्रोत्साहित करना, उसकाना
40. **Spike** (verb) – increase, escalate, surge, shoot up, jump तेजी से बढ़ना
41. **On the boil** (phrase) – be on the rise
42. **Precipitation** (noun) – rainfall, rain, snow, sleet, hail वर्षा
43. **El Nino** (noun) – a weather phenomenon characterized by the warming of the Pacific Ocean, which can cause changes in

atmospheric conditions and affect weather patterns around the world. It can have a significant impact on agriculture, and thus on food prices.

44. **Pinch** (verb) – hurt, affect, trouble, squeeze, sting चोट पहुँचना

45. **Room** (noun) – space, capacity, allowance, margin, leeway गुंजाइश

46. **Let the guard down** (phrase) – relax, lower one's guard, become less vigilant, drop one's guard, be less cautious सतर्कता कम करना

47. **Prop up** (phrasal verb) – support, sustain, uphold, bolster, reinforce समर्थन करना

48. **Squeezed** (adjective) – constrained, limited, tight, cramped, under pressure दबाव में

49. **Hardly** (adverb) – barely, scarcely, just, only just, almost not मुश्किल से

50. **Inspire** (verb) – motivate, encourage, stimulate, influence, spur on प्रेरित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Indian retail inflation eased below the 6% threshold in March, reaching 5.66%.
2. The 5.66% inflation level was last seen in December 2021.
3. High inflation persisted after the Russia-Ukraine conflict began in February 2022, peaking at 7.8% in April.
4. March was the third instance in 15 months when inflation was within RBI's tolerance range of 2% to 6%.
5. RBI paused interest rates after a series of hikes and projects average inflation of 5.2% for 2023-24.
6. Average inflation between January and March was 6.21%, higher than RBI's projection of 5.9%.
7. Inflation for the full year was 6.66%, slightly above the RBI's expectation of 6.5%.
8. Headline inflation staying below 6% is attributed to statistical effects from the previous year's base.
9. RBI expects inflation to average 5.1% in the April-June quarter, up from a 5% prediction two months ago.
10. Prices are still rising significantly, with no medium-term reversal expected for most goods and services.
11. Excluding vegetables, consumer inflation in March was 6.6%.
12. Imported inflation reached its lowest level since November 2019 at 2.8%, while domestic factors continue to push prices around 6%.
13. Potential global shocks from oil prices and other factors may cause imported inflation to spike again.
14. Concerns about crop losses, unseasonal precipitation, and El Niño effects may contribute to rising food prices.
15. Maintaining vigilance on inflation is necessary, as squeezed consumption is unlikely to inspire investment.

Practice Exercise

1. Based on the passage, which of the following is 'Definitely True'? [Editorial page]
- A. Inflation was within the RBI's mandated tolerance range of 2% to 6% for the entire period of the past 15 months.
 - B. The average inflation between January and March was higher than the RBI's February projection of 5.9%.
 - C. The RBI expects inflation to average 6.5% in the financial year 2023-24.
 - D. The central bank and the government are concerned that headline inflation will rise above 6% in the coming months.
2. **What is the primary reason behind the central bank and government's confidence in headline inflation staying below 6%?**
- (i) A strong economic recovery
 - (ii) The introduction of new monetary policies
 - (iii) Statistical effects of higher numbers from the previous year's base
 - (iv) Decrease in global inflation rates
- A. only (iii)
 - B. only (i), (ii)
 - C. (ii), (iv)
 - D. (i), (ii), (iv)
3. **Which of the following statement can be inferred from the passage?**
- A. Imported inflation is the sole driver of high overall inflation.
 - B. Lower imported inflation implies that there are no risks to price stability.
 - C. Domestic factors contribute significantly to the current inflation rate.
 - D. High food prices are solely due to El Niño effects.
4. **Which of the following statement cannot be inferred from the passage?**
- A. The Russia-Ukraine conflict contributed to high inflation rates in India.
 - B. The Reserve Bank of India had to explain to the government why the inflation target was missed for three consecutive quarters.
 - C. Retail inflation in March was at the same level as it was in December 2021.
 - D. The Reserve Bank of India has consistently raised interest rates in the past 15 months.
5. **What is the tone of the passage regarding the inflation situation in India?**
- A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Pessimistic
 - D. Explanatory

Directions (Q6 – Q9): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.

- P. This is a major breakthrough.
- Q. The summit concluded with the members agreeing to set up a global fund for the purpose.
- R. Though the idea of loss and damage reparations is nearly as old as global climate change negotiations, mitigation and adaptation dominated COPs for nearly three decades.

- S. The path to the most significant outcome of the UNFCCC 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) was laid out on the first day of the two-week long meet.
- T. On November 6, the delegates assembled at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt agreed to expand the COP's agenda to include the demand to compensate countries that suffer climate change-related loss and damages.
6. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
7. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
8. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
9. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
10. **Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
- (i) lifted off from ISRO's launch pad in Sriharikota (D)/ the country's first privately-developed rocket (E)/ a landmark when (F)/ On Friday, India's space programme accomplished (G)/
 - (ii) Vikram series rockets, the first of which is slated for launch next year (A)/ Developed by the Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace,(B)/ the 550-kg vehicle, Vikram S, is the forerunner of the much-larger(C)/
- A. BCA, EFDG
 - B. GFED, BCA
 - C. ACB, FDEG
 - D. GEFD, CBA

E. None of the above

Direction (Q11 – Q12): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

11. Understanding dynamic (A)/ complexities of (B)/ group behaviour is not (C)/ an ease task. (D)/ No Error. (E)
12. Everyone section of (A)/ the society is feeling (B)/ the pinch (C)/ of rising prices and corruption. (D)/ No Error. (E)

Direction (Q13- Q19): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: The growth math – April 07, 2023)

On Tuesday, two multilateral institutions presented their regional economic outlook for this year, scaling down their projection for India's growth prospects in 2023-24. The World Bank has _____(a)_____ its real GDP growth forecast for the country to 6.3% from 6.6% it had estimated a few months earlier, and 7% projected in October 2022. The key domestic factors it flagged for the downgrade are: rising borrowing costs would hurt otherwise resilient consumption demand, government consumption will likely contract, while services sectors' growth will slip to a three-year low of 6.7% from an estimated 9.5% in 2022-23. The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) noted that a ____ (b) _____ China's and India's domestic demand (which it believes will likely stay healthy) would lift up Asia's growth prospects. However, it slashed its 2023-24 GDP growth forecast for India from 7.2% to 6.4%, citing tight monetary conditions and fading optimism on business conditions that it reckoned would lead to lower growth in private investments (that had only seen a fledgling post-COVID recovery till now). Apart from these domestic issues, of course, both the institutions have cited the effects of the existing challenging conditions in the global economy, which are freshly exacerbated by a _____(c)_____ of bank failures in the developed world and resurfacing concerns about oil prices heading north despite slowing world demand as producers cut output in unison.

To be clear, the government, which presented the Union Budget around two months after the last forecasts of these institutions, of 7%-plus growth, had not _____(d)_____ such high hopes for this year. The Economic Survey pegged 2023-24 growth at 6.5%, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimates it at 6.4%. However, India's current growth estimate for last year is 7%, **(A)**/ while the World Bank and ADB expect **(B)**/ it to be marginal lower at 6.9% **(C)**/ and 6.8%, respectively. **(D)**/ A better **estimates(A)** on the base over which this year's growth has to be **calculated(B)**, will only **emerge(C)** by the end of May when first **picture(D)** for the last quarter of 2022-23 will be released. The world would also have spun a few more times by then and 2023-24 forecasts shall be revised whichever **way the winds blow**. At this time last April, the International Monetary Fund had just scaled down its India growth estimate for the year gone by, from 9% to 8.2%, while the World Bank, the ADB and the RBI had projected it to be 8%, 7.5% and 7.2%, respectively.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

13. The World Bank has _____ its real GDP growth forecast for the country to 6.3% from 6.6% it had estimated a few months earlier, and 7% projected in October 2022.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Ensured
- (ii) Reduced
- (iii) Pared
- (iv) Estimated

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

14. The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) noted that a _____ China's and India's domestic demand (which it believes will likely stay healthy) would lift up Asia's growth prospects.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Fading
- (ii) Recover
- (iii) Existing
- (iv) Rebounding

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

15. which are freshly exacerbated by a _____ of bank failures in the developed world and resurfacing concerns about oil prices heading north despite slowing world demand as producers cut output in unison.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) Debate
- (ii) Spate
- (iii) Associate
- (iv) Suspicion

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

16. To be clear, the government, which presented the Union Budget around two months after the last forecasts of these institutions, of 7%-plus growth, had not _____ such high hopes for this year.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Incorporate
- (ii) Exacerbated
- (iii) Articulated
- (iv) Innovated

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

17. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**

However, India's current growth estimate for last year is 7%,**(A)**/ while the World Bank and ADB expect **(B)**/ it to be marginal lower at 6.9% **(C)**/ and 6.8%, respectively.**(D)**/

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)

- D. (D)
- E. No Error

18. Given below is a word/ Tune out, followed by three sentence that consist of that word/phrase. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word/phrase. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word/phrase is not suitable in any of the sentence

The way the wind blows

- (i) The politician is waiting to see **the way the wind blows** regarding public opinion on the issue before deciding how to take action.
- (ii) Our next strategy with this project depends on **the way the wind blows** in the focus test.
- (iii) You'd best **the way the wind blows** his advice, or you might end up suffering the mistakes he made in the past.

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

19. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

A better **estimates (A)** on the base over which this year's growth has to be **calculated(B)**, will only **emerge(C)** by the end of May when first **picture (D)** for the last quarter of 2022-23 will be released.

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

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Being spiritual he is disgusted _____ materials lie life.

- A. Of
- B. By
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]**Explanations**

- Option B is 'Definitely True', as it is directly stated in the passage: "As it stands, the average inflation between January and March has turned out to be 6.21%, far higher than the RBI's February projection of 5.9%." Option A is 'Definitely False', since the passage states that inflation was within the tolerance range only on three occasions in 15 months. Option C is 'Definitely False', as the passage mentions that the RBI expects inflation to average 5.2% in 2023-24. Option D is 'Data Insufficient', as the passage does not provide enough information to determine whether the central bank and the government are concerned about headline inflation rising above 6% in the coming months.
- The passage states that the central bank and government's confidence in headline inflation staying below 6% is "in no small measure due to the statistical effects of higher numbers from the previous year's base." This indicates that the primary reason behind their confidence is the statistical effects. The other options are not mentioned or supported by the passage.
- Option A is incorrect because the passage states that domestic factors are still spurring prices around 6%. Option B is also incorrect, as the passage mentions that fresh global shocks may cause imported inflation to spike again. Option D is not accurate because the passage states that unseasonal precipitation and fears of El Niño effects contribute to rising food prices, not just El Niño effects. Therefore, the correct answer is:
 C) Domestic factors contribute significantly to the current inflation rate. The passage explicitly states that imported inflation is at its lowest level since November 2019, but domestic factors are still spurring prices around 6%, indicating that domestic factors play a significant role in the overall inflation rate.
- Option A can be inferred from the text, as it states that high inflation escalated after the Russia-Ukraine conflict that began in February 2022. Option B can be inferred since the RBI had to send an explanation to the government regarding the missed inflation target. Option C can also be inferred because the 5.66% retail inflation level recorded in March was last seen in December 2021.
 Option D, however, cannot be inferred from the given text, as it only mentions that the RBI hit a pause on interest rates this month after a streak of hikes, but it does not mention that the rate hikes were consistent throughout the past 15 months.
- d) Explanatory
 Explanation: The tone of the passage is explanatory as it provides a detailed analysis of the current inflation situation in India, discussing the central bank's expectations and various factors contributing to the inflation rate. The passage does not express a particularly optimistic, neutral, or pessimistic outlook on the situation, but rather offers information to help readers understand the circumstances.
- S.) The path to the most significant outcome of the UNFCCC 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) was laid out on the first day of the two-week long meet

7. T.) On November 6, the delegates assembled at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt agreed to expand the COP's agenda to include the demand to compensate countries that suffer climate change-related loss and damages
8. Q.)The summit concluded with the members agreeing to set up a global fund for the purpose.
9. P.)This is a major breakthrough.

STQPR

The path to the most significant outcome of the UNFCCC 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) was laid out on the first day of the two-week long meet. On November 6, the delegates assembled at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt agreed to expand the COP's agenda to include the demand to compensate countries that suffer climate change-related loss and damages. The summit concluded with the members agreeing to set up a global fund for the purpose. This is a major breakthrough. Though the idea of loss and damage reparations is nearly as old as global climate change negotiations, mitigation and adaptation dominated COPs for nearly three decades.

10. **GFED, BCA**

On Friday, India's space programme accomplished a landmark when the country's first privately-developed rocket lifted off from ISRO's launch pad in Sriharikota. Developed by the Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace, the 550-kg vehicle, Vikram S, is the forerunner of the much-larger Vikram series rockets, the first of which is slated for launch next year.

11. (D) 'ease' के बदले 'easy' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'ease' एक Noun है जिसका अर्थ 'सुगमता, सुविधा, आराम' और 'easy' एक Adjective है। जिसका अर्थ है 'सरल, आसान' और Noun 'task' की विशेषता Adjective बताएगा; अर्थात् 'an easy task' (एक सरल कार्य) का प्रयोग होगा।

- 'easy' will be used instead of 'ease' because 'ease' is a Noun which means 'ease, convenience, comfort' and 'easy' is an Adjective. which means 'simple, easy' and adjective will describe the noun 'task'; That is, 'an easy task' will be used.

12. (A) 'Everyone' के बदले 'Every' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Everyone' का प्रयोग केवल Pronoun के रूप में केवल 'person' (व्यक्ति) के लिए 'हर कोई' के अर्थ में होता है जबकि 'Every' का प्रयोग Adjective के रूप में 'हर एक, प्रत्येक' के अर्थ में 'व्यक्ति' या 'वस्तु' के लिए; जैसे-

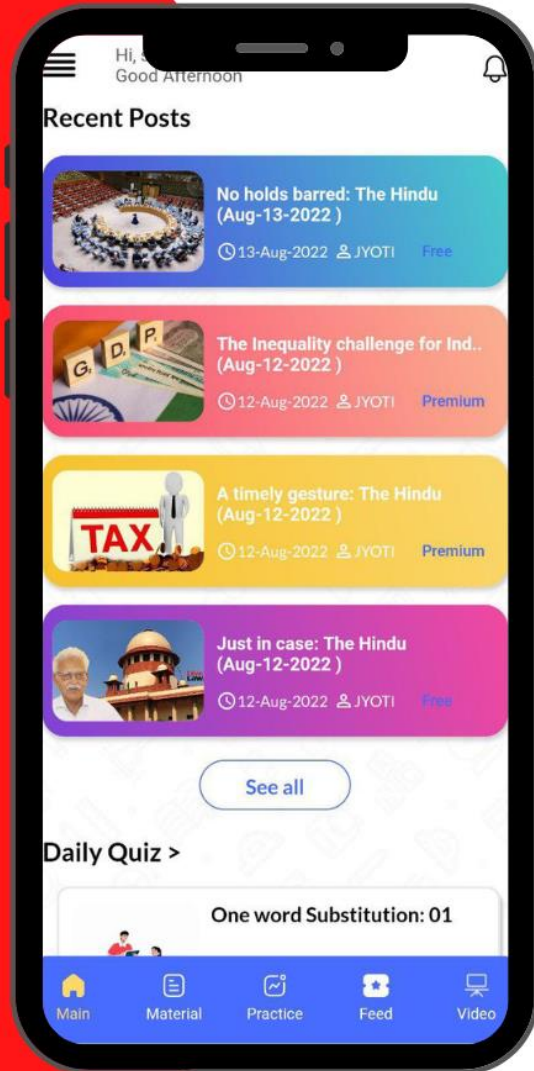
- i. Everyone / Everybody wants to succeed in life.
- ii. Every child gets a glass of milk here every morning.
- iii. Every book is new here.

- 'Every' will be used instead of 'Everyone' because 'Everyone' is used as a Pronoun only for 'person' (person) in the sense of 'every' whereas 'Every' Used as an Adjective for 'person' or 'thing' in the sense of 'every one, each'; like-

- i. Everyone / Everybody wants to succeed in life.
- ii. Every child gets a glass of milk here every morning.
- iii. Every book is new here.

13. **Pare** (verb) – Trim, reduce, cut, shave, scale back कम करना

- **Ensure** (verb) – Guarantee, secure, make certain, confirm, ascertain सुनिश्चित करना
 - **Estimate** (verb) – Calculate, gauge, evaluate, predict, approximate अनुमान लगाना
14. **Rebounding** (adjective) – Recovering, bouncing back, rallying, improving, reviving उबरती हुई
- **Fading** (adjective) – Diminishing, declining, waning, ebbing, weakening कम होता हुआ
 - **Existing** (adjective) – Present, current, prevailing, ongoing, extant मौजूदा
15. **Spate** (noun) – Series, succession, string, wave, flurry सिलसिला, बौछाड़
- **Debate** (noun) – Discussion, argument, dispute, deliberation बहस
 - **Associate** (noun) – Partner, colleague, accomplice, collaborator, comrade साथी
 - **Suspicion** (noun) – Mistrust, doubt, skepticism, disbelief, wariness संदेह
16. **Articulate** (verb) – Express, communicate, convey, state, voice व्यक्त करना
- **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, compound, intensify, amplify बढ़ाना
 - **Incorporate** (verb) – Include, integrate, combine, merge, blend सम्मिलित करना
 - **Innovate** (verb) – Create, invent, pioneer, develop, introduce नया बनाना, सुधारना
17. The error in the given sentence is the use of the word "**marginal**" instead of "**marginally**." "**Marginally**" is an **adverb**, which is used to modify an adjective or another adverb. In this case, it modifies the adjective "lower." The original sentence incorrectly used the adjective "marginal," which does not properly modify "lower."
18. **The way the wind blows** (phrase) – Trend, direction, current situation, general tendency, prevailing mood हवा का रुख
- According to the given options only (i) AND (ii) are contextually correct.
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
You'd best **pay heed to** his advice, or you might end up suffering the mistakes he made in the past.
19. A better picture on the base over which this year's growth has to be calculated, will only emerge by the end of May when first estimates for the last quarter of 2022-23 will be released.



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