

Spiralling food prices: on the build-up of underlying inflation pressures

Policymakers must guard against inflation to ensure sustainable growth

Indian **households** find themselves yet again struggling to **cope with** a sharp **surge** in the prices of **essential** kitchen **staples** — ranging from tomatoes, onions and potatoes to tur dal and rice. Tomato prices have more than doubled month-on-month with the all-India average retail price as on June 29 soaring to ₹53.59 a kilogram, from ₹24.37 on May 29, **data** from the Consumer Affairs Department's Price Monitoring Division **show**. And while **the rise** in onion and potato prices over the same one-month period **is** a **seemingly far more benign** 7.5% and 4.5%, respectively, the overall **trajectory** in price gains across the wider food basket **is symptomatic** of the **unsettling** build-up of underlying inflation pressures in the economy. **For instance, the price** of tur dal, a key protein source in the diets of vegetarian households, **continues** to keep rising; it had **climbed** 7.8% month-on-month to ₹130.75 a kilogram on June 29, as per the government's data. Official **retail inflation data** for May, released earlier this month, **had** shown that **prices** of pulses, which includes tur dal, **had quickened** by 128 **basis points** year-on-year to a 31-month high of 6.56%. The government's **imposition** of stock limits on urad and tur on June 2 **seems** to have **so far done little to cool** price gains in **lentils**.

To be sure there is a **seasonality** component to the prices of farm **produce** and their supply is largely determined by factors including timing of the **harvest** and the prices **prevailing** at the mandis when the farmers transport their crop to the markets. Just last month, tomato growers in rural Maharashtra had **dumped sizeable** quantities of their produce on the roads after being offered **unremunerative** prices. However, **prices** of several of these food items, including tomatoes, **are** still **substantially** higher than even the same time last year with the **modal** daily **weighted average** arrival prices at the mandis as per the government's agmarket website revealing tomato prices almost tripled year-on-year to ₹5,579 a quintal as on June 29. The same arrival price data show a 35% jump in tur dal and a 19% increase in common paddy (rice). With the monsoon rains 13% in **deficit** so far this year, and the **outlook** for **spatial** and temporal distribution in the coming months **clouded** with **uncertainty** by the **El Niño**, there is a real risk that food prices could cause retail inflation to **accelerate** again. Policymakers need to **walk the talk** and retain **laser focus** on **taming** inflation. After all, as the Reserve Bank of India's economists noted in the latest bulletin, "the **path** to high but sustainable inclusive growth **has** to be **paved** by price **stability**".

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Spiralling** (adjective) – Increasing, rising, climbing, rocketing, escalating बढ़ती
2. **Build-up** (noun) – a gradual accumulation or increase, typically of something negative that leads to a problem. बढ़ोतरी
3. **Underlying** (adjective) – Fundamental, basic, primary, principal, elemental बुनियादी
4. **Inflation** (noun) – the rate of increase in prices over a given period of time. महंगाई
5. **Policymaker** (noun) – Decision maker, regulator, legislator, lawmaker, administrator नीति निर्माता
6. **Guard against** (phrase) – beware of, keep watch for, be alert to, take care of बचाव करना
7. **Sustainable** (adjective) – supportable, acceptable, trustworthy, reasonable टिकाऊ
8. **Household** (noun) – Family, home, domestic establishment घरबार
9. **Cope with** (phrasal verb) – Deal with, manage, handle, tackle, confront सामना करना
10. **Surge** (noun) – Increase, rise, escalation, growth, upswing वृद्धि
11. **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, vital, crucial, indispensable आवश्यक
12. **Staple** (noun) – Basic food, primary food, essential food, principal food, necessary food मुख्य खाद्य
13. **Seemingly** (adverb) – Apparently, ostensibly, seemingly, probably, likely प्रतीत होनेवाला
14. **Far more** (phrase) – A lot more, greatly more, much more, considerably more, significantly more बहुत अधिक
15. **Benign** (adjective) – Gentle, kind, mild, favourable, agreeable सौम्य
16. **Trajectory** (noun) – Course, path, direction, route, approach प्रक्षेप-पथ
17. **Symptomatic** (adjective) – Indicative, representative, demonstrative, suggestive, signal लक्षणात्मक
18. **Unsettling** (adjective) – Disturbing, upsetting, disconcerting, disquieting, troublesome बेचैन करनेवाला
19. **For instance** (phrase) – As an example, for example, as a case in point, to illustrate उदाहरण के लिए
20. **Climb** (verb) – Ascend, rise, go up, increase, mount ऊपर जाना
21. **Retail inflation** (noun) – the rate at which the prices of goods and services that consumers buy for personal use increase over time. खुदरा महंगाई

22. **Quicken** (verb) – Accelerate, hasten, speed up, expedite, fast-track तेजी से बढ़ना
23. **Basis point** (noun) – 100 basis point = 1%
24. **Imposition** (noun) – levying, charging, enforcing, obligation थोपना
25. **So far** (phrase) – Up to now, until now, till now, to date, hitherto अब तक
26. **Do little to do something** (phrase) – fail to do something असफल होना
27. **Cool** (verb) – Reduce, lessen, decrease, diminish कम करना
28. **Lentil** (noun) – Pulse, legume, dal, bean, pea दाल
29. **To be sure** (phrase) – Certainly, undoubtedly, assuredly, definitely, unquestionably निश्चित रूप से
30. **Seasonality** (noun) – the quality or fact of varying with or depending on the season or time of year. मौसमियता
31. **Produce** (noun) – Crop, yield, harvest, product, goods उपज
32. **Harvest** (noun) – the process or period of gathering in crops खेत से फ़सल काटने और इकट्ठी करने का समय
33. **Prevail** (verb) – Exist, be present, be current, reign, predominate मौजूद होना
34. **Dump** (verb) – Discard, dispose of, throw away, get rid of, jettison फेंक देना
35. **Sizeable** (adjective) – Substantial, large, ample, considerable बड़ा
36. **Unremunerative** (adjective) – Unprofitable, non-profitable, unrewarding अलाभकारी
37. **Substantially** (adverb) – Significantly, considerably, greatly, markedly, noticeably काफी
38. **Modal** (adjective) – relating to a value that occurs most frequently in a given set of data.
39. **Weighted Average** (noun) – a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of importance of the numbers in a data set.
40. **Deficit** (noun) – Shortfall, deficiency, shortage, lack, scarcity कमी
41. **Outlook** (noun) – prospects, chances, possibilities, expectations, संभावना
42. **Spatial** (adjective) – relating to or occupying space. स्थानिक
43. **Cloud** (verb) – Obscure, blur, make unclear, make uncertain. धुंधला करना, अस्पष्ट करना
44. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Unpredictability, instability, variability, changeability, inconstancy अनिश्चितता

45. **El Nino** (noun) – a warm ocean current of variable intensity that develops after late December along the coast of Ecuador and Peru and sometimes causes catastrophic weather conditions.
46. **Accelerate** (verb) – Speed up, hasten, quicken, rush, hurry तेजी से बढ़ना
47. **Walk the talk** (phrase) – To do what one said one could do, or would do, not just making empty promises कही गई बात को अमल में लाना
48. **Laser focus** (noun) – Concentration, attentiveness, consideration, scrutiny, deliberation ध्यान केंद्रित करना
49. **Tame** (verb) – Control, subdue, restrain, check, curb नियंत्रित करना
50. **Pave the path for** (phrase) – Facilitate, enable, ease, simplify, smooth the way for मार्ग प्रशस्त करना
51. **Price stability** (noun) – Price stability is when the average price levels are constant for more extended period and vary slowly मूल्य स्थिरता

Summary of the Editorial

1. Indian households are struggling due to a sharp increase in the prices of essential food staples, including tomatoes, onions, potatoes, tur dal, and rice.
2. Tomato prices have more than doubled month-on-month, with the average retail price as of June 29 being ₹53.59 a kilogram, compared to ₹24.37 on May 29.
3. Onion and potato prices have seen a more modest rise of 7.5% and 4.5% respectively over the same one-month period.
4. The general price increase across the wider food basket indicates an unsettling build-up of underlying inflation pressures in the economy.
5. Prices of tur dal, a key protein source for vegetarian households, have also been steadily increasing.
6. The inflation in prices of pulses, including tur dal, was at a 31-month high of 6.56% in May according to official retail inflation data.
7. Government measures like the imposition of stock limits on certain pulses have not effectively cooled price increases.
8. The pricing of farm produce is influenced by seasonal factors, harvest timing, and market prices when crops are transported to markets.
9. Despite farmers' protests, such as tomato growers in Maharashtra dumping their produce due to low prices, food items' prices remain higher than the same period the previous year.
10. Government data shows that tomato prices have nearly tripled year-on-year as of June 29.
11. Prices of tur dal and common paddy (rice) have jumped by 35% and 19% respectively.
12. With a 13% shortfall in monsoon rains this year and the unpredictability of the El Niño, there's a significant risk of further food price increases.
13. This situation could cause retail inflation to accelerate again, potentially threatening sustainable growth.
14. Policymakers need to prioritize managing inflation and ensuring price stability.
15. As emphasized by economists at the Reserve Bank of India, sustainable, inclusive growth is dependent on price stability.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What can be inferred from the given passage about the economic conditions in India?

[Editorial Page]

- A. The Indian government is successfully managing the prices of essential kitchen staples.
 - B. There is an unsettling build-up of underlying inflation pressures in the Indian economy.
 - C. The price of kitchen staples is decreasing in India.
 - D. The Consumer Affairs Department's Price Monitoring Division has no data on the prices of food items.
2. What could be a potential cause of food prices causing retail inflation to accelerate according to the passage?
- A. Decrease in demand for farm produce.
 - B. An increase in the number of farmers.
 - C. The impact of El Niño on monsoon rains.
 - D. A decline in transportation costs.
3. What does the idiom "walk the talk" mean in the context of the passage?
- A. Policymakers need to physically walk to a location and talk to someone.
 - B. Policymakers should consider their words before speaking.
 - C. Policymakers need to fulfill their responsibilities by hiking the prices.
 - D. Policymakers should act upon what they have promised, specifically about controlling inflation.
4. What is the tone of the passage?
- A. Optimistic
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Concerned
 - D. Excited
5. What is the main theme of the passage?
- A. The effect of climate change on food prices.
 - B. The need for the government to regulate the supply of kitchen staples.
 - C. The struggles of Indian households coping with the rise in food prices and inflation.
 - D. The dynamics of tomato farming in rural Maharashtra.
6. Which of the following words is a synonym of the term "unremunerative" as mentioned in the passage?
- A. Lucrative
 - B. Profitable
 - C. Worthless
 - D. Valuable
7. Which of the following is an antonym for the term "prevailing" as used in the passage?
- A. Uncommon
 - B. Dominant
 - C. Existing
 - D. Current

8. Which of the following statements are/is CORRECT based on the passage?

- i. Tomato prices have more than doubled month-on-month, with the average retail price on June 29 being ₹53.59 a kilogram.
 - ii. The price of tur dal has increased 7.8% month-on-month to ₹130.75 a kilogram on June 29.
 - iii. The Reserve Bank of India emphasized the importance of price stability for high but sustainable inclusive growth.
- A. Only i
 - B. Only ii
 - C. Only iii
 - D. All of the above

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

- P. Even the travel truism of booking as early as possible for affordable airfare is being turned on its head as profitability emerges as the key determinant for carriers.
 - Q. The skyrocketing ticket prices though are inexplicable, despite the narrative that jet fuel prices, high demand and pilot shortage are all conspiring to drive airfares up globally.
 - R. Airfare has always been a function of demand and supply.
 - S. So, given the rush of bookings and pent-up demand, a surge in prices was on expected lines after the reopening of regular international flights following a two-year hiatus.
- A. RSQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ

10. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** for the word '**exasperated**' in the following sentence
Jessica was exasperated with her coworkers' lack of attention to detail

- A. Thrilled
- B. Apathetic
- C. Unconcerned
- D. Detached

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

- P. Barely two months after a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change red-flagged India's vulnerabilities to extreme heat, the inevitable seems to be happening — far earlier than feared.
 - Q. Agriculture, the most resilient sector during the Covid-19 pandemic, is struggling to withstand the tough conditions, with wheat yields dropping alarmingly due to the inclement weather. The writing was on the wall last month itself as India recorded its hottest March in over 120 years.
 - R. A nationwide surge in electricity demand has triggered a power crisis, putting coal supplies under considerable strain.
 - S. Many parts of the country are in the grip of a severe heatwave that is impacting millions of lives as well as livelihoods.
- A. SQRP B.PSRQ C.SQPR D.PRQS

12. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice

I know he will play his guitar.

- A. His guitar will be played by him is something I know.

- B. It is known to me that his guitar would be played by him.
C. It is known to me that his guitar will be played by him
D. His guitar will be played by him is know to me.
13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. This is not only a short-term solution at best but also a step backward, considering India's lofty climate action targets — set for 2030 — of sourcing 50 per cent energy requirement from renewables and installing 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity.
Q. However, overdependence on this highly polluting fossil fuel is impeding India's efforts to shift to renewable sources of energy.
R. The surge in power demand, triggered by the scorching heatwave, has led to frantic attempts to arrange adequate coal supplies.
S. With the power crisis worsening, the Union Government is contemplating desperate measures which might turn out to be counter-productive in the long run. Discussions are being held with power firms on reviving non-operational coal-based plants and the ones that are under liquidation.
- A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ
14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.
The _____ nature of the instructions made it difficult for the students to understand the assignment.
- A. Ambivalent
B. Ambrosial
C. Ambiguous
D. Ambidextrous
15. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. While it reflects a pick-up in economic activity despite the escalating geopolitical conflict, and the effect of tighter input credit norms, also noteworthy is the huge price rise in input costs, visible in the surge in retail rates.
Q. The all-time high monthly Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April, an increase of 20 per cent from April last year, is an encouraging statistic, notwithstanding the subdued sentiment because of the rising inflation levels.
R. Attributed to improvement in compliance behaviour and stricter enforcement action against tax evaders, the highest collection since GST's rollout in 2017 sends out largely positive signals, though concerns remain.
S. Last month's mop-up is Rs 25,000 crore higher than the previous record set in March.
- A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
16. Select the correct collocation from the options and complete the sentence
She was _____ to attend the conference, but her flight got canceled.
- A. supposed
B. decided
C. interested
D. happy

Comprehension

Simple yet mysteriously profound, soft yet hard-hitting, Sant Kabir's teachings have always challenged the status quo, awakening seekers to realise the transiency of life, as opposed to the magnificence of eternal being. Kabir _____1_____ a term 'Avadhoo' to call upon the guru. 'Avadhoo' means infinite, vast, expansive, boundary-less, as profound as ether. That which is boundless, unfathomable, indivisible, and impeccable. To some, an Avadhoota is one _____2_____ doesn't wear any garments, but in reality, he is the one who has stripped off all the layers of his mind – layers of delusions, ignorance, attachment, aversion –thus is resplendent, self-effulgent, and unswervingly established in his true Self. Kabir boldly proclaims that what we ignorantly believe to be our real home, this body, is not our true _____3_____. Body is _____4_____ and so are its relationships, which we mistakenly consider to be real. Only Self is real – truth, consciousness, bliss and all-pervasive.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Coined
- B. Pranced
- C. Reverberated
- D. Attained

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

- A. Which
- B. Whom
- C. Who
- D. Whose

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

- A. Liberation
- B. Thirst
- C. Abode
- D. Fallacy

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

- A. Incomprehensible
- B. Ephemeral
- C. Incessant
- D. Subdued

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- 1. B) There is an unsettling build-up of underlying inflation pressures in the Indian economy.**
The passage states that prices of essential kitchen staples are sharply increasing, with specific data provided for tomatoes, onions, potatoes, tur dal, and rice. For instance, the price of tomatoes has more than doubled month-on-month, the price of onions and potatoes has risen by 7.5% and 4.5% respectively, and the price of tur dal has climbed by 7.8%. The passage also mentions that the overall trajectory of price increases across the wider food basket indicates an unsettling build-up of underlying inflation pressures in the economy. Despite the government's measures such as imposing stock limits on certain items, these have done little to cool price gains. Therefore, it can be inferred that there is a mounting inflation pressure in the Indian economy.
- 2. C) The impact of El Niño on monsoon rains.**
The passage mentions that there is a real risk that food prices could cause retail inflation to accelerate again with the uncertainty surrounding the monsoon rains affected by El Niño. This suggests that the potential effect of El Niño on monsoon rain patterns may affect crop yields, thus causing a potential increase in food prices, and subsequently, an acceleration in retail inflation. The other options (A, B, and D) are not discussed in the passage as potential causes for an acceleration in retail inflation.
- 3. D) Policymakers should act upon what they have promised, specifically about controlling inflation.**
In the given passage, "walk the talk" is an idiom used to imply that policymakers need to take action corresponding to their commitments, particularly in terms of controlling inflation. The phrase doesn't involve physical movement or careful consideration of words before speaking, rather it's about matching actions to spoken commitments. The context doesn't suggest that they should fulfill their responsibilities by increasing prices, so option c) is also incorrect. Hence, option d) is the most fitting answer.
- 4. C) Concerned**
The passage carries a concerned tone. This is reflected in the description of the increased prices of essential food items in Indian households, the discussion about inflation pressures, and the mentioning of various factors that are leading to price instability. The call for policymakers to focus on taming inflation also highlights the concern regarding the current economic conditions.
- 5. C) The struggles of Indian households coping with the rise in food prices and inflation.**
The passage mainly discusses the rising prices of essential kitchen staples in India and its impact on households. It also talks about inflation pressures in the economy, and the concern over how these could potentially cause further increases in retail inflation. While other topics

are touched upon, such as the seasonality of farm produce prices and specific instances like the tomato growers in Maharashtra, the main theme revolves around the inflationary pressures on food prices and their effect on Indian households.

6. C) **Worthless**

Unremunerative – bringing little or no profit or income. अलाभकारी

The term "unremunerative" refers to something not profitable or not providing adequate payment or reward. "Worthless" also implies that something has no value, profit or benefit, so it is the correct synonym.

7. A) **Uncommon**

Prevailing – to being current, common or widespread प्रचलित

In this context, "**prevailing**" refers to being current, common or widespread. The term "uncommon" refers to something not found or seen often, thus it is the antonym of "prevailing".

8. **D) All options are correct**

i. Tomato prices have more than doubled month-on-month, with the average retail price on June 29 being ₹53.59 a kilogram.

This statement is supported by the passage. The passage states, "Tomato prices have more than doubled month-on-month with the all-India average retail price as on June 29 soaring to ₹53.59 a kilogram."

ii. The price of tur dal has increased 7.8% month-on-month to ₹130.75 a kilogram on June 29. This statement is also confirmed in the passage, where it mentions, "the price of tur dal, a key protein source in the diets of vegetarian households, continues to keep rising; it had climbed 7.8% month-on-month to ₹130.75 a kilogram on June 29."

iii. The Reserve Bank of India emphasized the importance of price stability for high but sustainable inclusive growth.

Finally, this statement is supported by the concluding part of the passage, where it says, "as the Reserve Bank of India's economists noted in the latest bulletin, 'the path to high but sustainable inclusive growth has to be paved by price stability'". This clearly shows that the Reserve Bank of India does indeed emphasize the importance of price stability.

9. **A) RSQP**

R: Sentence R: "Airfare has always been a function of demand and supply." This sentence sets the context of the paragraph and explains the basic principle of how airfare is determined, which serves as a great starting point.

S: Sentence S: "So, given the rush of bookings and pent-up demand, a surge in prices was on expected lines after the reopening of regular international flights following a two-year hiatus." This sentence logically follows R, as it elaborates on the current situation of high demand affecting airfare, after explaining the principle of demand and supply.

Q: Sentence Q: "The skyrocketing ticket prices though are inexplicable, despite the narrative

that jet fuel prices, high demand and pilot shortage are all conspiring to drive airfares up globally." This sentence is a follow-up to the situation mentioned in sentence S, introducing a contradiction or problem in the current understanding of how the airfare prices are determined

P: Sentence P: "Even the travel truism of booking as early as possible for affordable airfare is being turned on its head as profitability emerges as the key determinant for carriers." This sentence provides a conclusion to the discussion, explaining a change in the traditional understanding of airfare dynamics, which is a logical continuation from the problem identified in sentence Q

10. A) **Thrilled**

Exasperated (adjective) – Irritate, Annoy, Infuriate, Anger, Vex हताश

Apathetic (adjective) – Indifferent, Uninterested, Disinterested, Unresponsive, Aloof अनिच्छुक

Unconcerned (adjective) – Careless, Nonchalant, Uninvolved, Disengaged, Unbothered उदासीन

Detached (adjective) – Disconnected, Separated, Unattached, Aloof, Withdrawn विरक्त

11. B) **PSRQ**

P: Sentence P is clearly the starting point as it provides an introduction about the issue related to climate change and its possible impacts, mentioning a recent report.

S: Sentence S should follow P as it provides specifics about the current situation in India – a severe heatwave – which is a result of the climate change issues introduced in sentence P.

R: Sentence R continues the narrative from S, describing the effects of the heatwave, such as the increase in electricity demand and the resultant power crisis

Q: Finally, sentence Q fits in at the end, as it further elaborates on the consequences of the situation (severe heatwave and power crisis) on a specific sector – agriculture. It also relates the current crisis to a previous one (Covid-19), providing a nice conclusion and offering an example of an affected industry.

12. C.) It is known to me that his guitar will be played by him.

13. D) **SPRQ**

S: This sentence sets the context of the discussion: the power crisis and the government's response to it.

P: This sentence directly builds upon the government's actions described in Sentence S and introduces the critique about the short-term nature of the solution and its implications for India's climate goals.

R: This sentence further explains the urgency of the situation described in Sentence S, linking the desperate measures to the surge in power demand.

Q: This sentence concludes the paragraph by connecting the overreliance on coal (a consequence of the actions taken as described in Sentence S and P) with the larger problem of transitioning to renewable energy sources

14. C) In this context, the instructions for the assignment are unclear or difficult to interpret, making it hard for the students to understand what is expected of them.

- **Ambiguous** (adjective) – vague, unclear, equivocal, uncertain, obscure अस्पष्ट
- **Ambivalent** (adjective) – uncertain or indecisive उभयभावी
- **Ambrosial** (adjective) – pleasing to taste or smell सुगंधमय, खुशबूदार
- **Ambidextrous** (adjective) – means being able to use both hands equally well उभयहस्त

15. C) **QSRP**

Q: The paragraph starts with this sentence as it provides the base of the discussion – the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection of April reaching an all-time high.

S: This sentence logically follows 'Q', adding more information about the record-breaking amount of the tax collection. It details how the current collection compares to the previous record.

R: Following the details of the tax collection, 'R' provides an explanation for this development, stating it is due to an improvement in compliance behavior and stricter enforcement against tax evaders

P: Finally, 'P' provides an analysis and larger context of this tax collection. It discusses the implications and wider circumstances surrounding this event, such as the pick-up in economic activity, the geopolitical conflict, and the rise in input costs.

16. A) The verb "supposed" is often used in collocation with "to" to indicate an obligation or expectation

17. **A) Coin** (verb) – Invent, create, fabricate आविष्कार करना; गढ़ना

"Coined". In the context, Kabir has created a term 'Avadhoo' to describe a certain concept or state of being. Hence, the verb 'coined' which means 'to create or invent (a new word or phrase)' fits perfectly.

- **Prance** (verb) – Frolic, Cavort, Dance, Leap, Skip उछालना
- **Reverberate** (verb) – Echo, Resound, vibrate, ring, resonate गूँजना
- **Attain** (verb) – Achieve, Accomplish, Reach, Obtain, Acquire प्राप्त करना

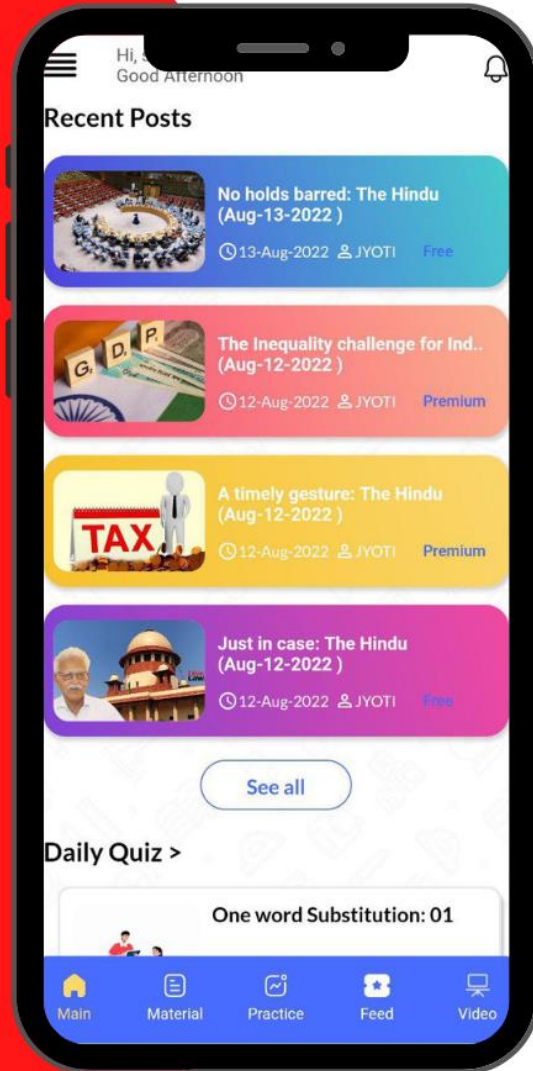
18. C) "Who". The word '**Who**' is used as a relative pronoun to introduce a clause that provides information about the noun (in this case, 'Avadhoota'). 'Which' and 'Whose' are also relative pronouns, but 'Which' is used for things, not people, and 'Whose' is used to show possession. 'Whom' is used as an object of a verb or preposition, which is not the case here. So, 'Who' is the only grammatically correct choice.

19. **C) Abode** (noun) – Dwelling, residence, habitation, domicile, home, आवास

"Abode". The context suggests that Kabir is describing the common misconception that our body is our real 'home' or 'abode'.

- **Liberation** (noun) – Freedom, Release, Emancipation, Deliverance, Redemption मुक्ति
- **Thirst** (noun) – Desire, craving, longing, yearning, hankering, प्यास
- **Fallacy** (noun) – Misconception, delusion, misbelief, illusion, myth, भ्रंति/ भ्रम

20. **B) Ephemeral** (adjective) – Transitory, fleeting, temporary, short-lived, transient, अल्पकालिक "Ephemeral". The word 'ephemeral' means lasting for a very short time, which aligns with the text's description of the body and its relationships as not being permanent or 'real'.
- **Incomprehensible** (adjective) – Unintelligible, Unfathomable, Enigmatic, Cryptic अबोध्द्य
 - **Incessant** (adjective) – Unending, Nonstop, Perpetual, Ceaseless, Unceasing लगातार
 - **Subdued** (adjective) – Softened, Muted, Toned down, Dampened, Dimmed शांत/ मौन



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

