

DAILY PT POINTERS

13th June, 2024



The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 12

Food inflation spikes in urban India, nears 9%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's consumer price inflation eased a tad to a one-year low of 4.75% in May, from 4.83% in April, but food price rise remained unchanged at 8.7%, with urban households facing a sharper 8.83% spike in food inflation. Retail inflation stood at 4.31% in May 2023, with food prices rising less than 3%.

May was the fourth successive month with food inflation of over 8.5%, though it cooled fractionally for rural consumers from 8.75% in April to 8.62%. On a month-on-month basis, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was up 0.5% in May, while the food price index had risen 0.73% from April's levels. The sequential rise in food prices was 0.7% for rural consumers and 0.9% for their urban counterparts.

The gap between urban and rural consumers' inflation trends was sharp for the third consecutive

month, with rural households seeing a 5.3% rise in prices in May. For urban consumers, the retail inflation pace was 4.15%, just fractionally higher than 4.14% in March and 4.11% in April.

While retail inflation has now been below 6% since September 2023, it is still far from the central bank's 4% target. The Reserve Bank of India expects retail inflation to average 4.5% this year and has projected an average of 4.9% for the April to June quarter. With April and May inflation coming in slightly below that, it is likely that price rise may resurge to over 5% this month.

Barring spices, where the inflation rate cooled to 4.3%, the lowest level in at least two years, price pressures persisted for most food items. Vegetable prices rose 27.3% in May, while the inflation rate accelerated for cereals (8.7%), eggs (7.6%), fruits (6.7%) as well as pulses.

- Retail inflation eased to a one-year low of 4.75 per cent in May as prices of some kitchen items declined marginally, according to government data
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.83 per cent in April 2024 and 4.31 per cent in May 2023 (previous low).
- Inflation in the food basket was 8.69 per cent in May, marginally down from 8.70 per cent in April, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Do you know ?

The government has tasked the Reserve Bank to ensure the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

The Hindu-IR (GSII)Page 13

PM to attend G-7 outreach in Italy; all eyes on possible interaction with Zelenskyy, Trudeau

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Just four days after being sworn in for a third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the Apulia region of Italy on Thursday to attend the G-7 outreach meet.

Mr. Modi will meet Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a briefing on Wednesday, but declined to comment on specific questions on which other leaders he would hold bilateral meetings with.

Apart from leaders of other G-7 countries – Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S. – and the European Union leadership, Mr. Modi will be among leaders of 12 countries invited to the outreach on Friday, including Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, South



Friendly ties: Narendra Modi meeting Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in New Delhi in March 2023. SHIVKUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Africa, Tunisia, Turkiye, and the UAE. All eyes will be on a possible meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is also expected.

The event will give Mr. Modi the opportunity to meet a host of leaders to discuss his plans for his new term in office, even as many of the leaders such as U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak face elections in the next few months, while countries such as Ita-

ly, Germany, and France witnessed the European Parliament polls on Sunday.

This is the 11th time that India has been invited to the G-7 outreach, and the fifth that Mr. Modi will participate. He will take part in a special session for discussions on artificial intelligence, energy, Africa and the “Mediterranean”, Mr. Kwatra said, indicating that the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Israel’s war in Gaza will also be on the agenda.

“India’s regular participation at the G-7 summit clearly points to increasing recognition and contribution of the efforts India has been consistently making in trying to resolve global challenges, including those of peace, security, development, and environmental preservation,” Mr. Kwatra told presspersons.

Peace summit

While most of the G-7 leadership with the exception of Mr. Biden will travel directly from Apulia’s Borgo Egnazia luxury resort to the Swiss town of Burgenstock for a peace conference on Ukraine, India is yet to announce the level of its participation at the conference.

“India will be participating at the Peace summit in Switzerland on the [June] 15th,” Mr. Kwatra said when asked for a response. “That consideration is currently going on in the sys-

tem and as and when we have a decision on the representative from India who would be participating, we would be happy to share that with you.”

Any interaction between Mr. Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be closely watched, given the tensions over Mr. Trudeau’s allegation that “Indian government agents” were behind the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada last June.

The Khalistan issue has sparked a row after a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, due to be inaugurated in the town of Brindisi not far from the G-7 venue, was defaced with graffiti hailing Nijjar. Mr. Kwatra called it “deplorable”.

While he said that Italian authorities had “rectified” the situation, he took aim at Canada for support to Khalistani activism.

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Do you know ?

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of seven of the world’s advanced economies, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union.

The Hindu : _GS 3-Environment –Page 14

Study ranks India second in nitrous oxide emissions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N₂O), a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%.

The major source of these emissions comes from fertilizer usage, according to a global assessment of N₂O emissions published in the journal *Earth System Science Data* on Wednesday.

In 2022, the concentration of atmospheric N₂O reached about 25% above the levels seen before the industrial age. In comparison, the concentration of carbon dioxide was 417 parts per million in 2022.

This means that the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a thousand times more than that of nitrous oxide, making carbon dioxide reduction the bigger priority among countries trying to



Monumental change: The Taj Mahal on a clear day after rain washed away pollution in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. SANDEEP SAXENA

contain climate change. However, because nitrous oxide stays longer in the atmosphere and is rising rapidly, scientists in recent years have been warning that it must also be tackled with a greater sense of urgency.

N₂O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% (three million metric tonnes of N₂O per year) in the past four decades, with growth rates between 2020 and 2022 higher than in any previous period since 1980, when reliable measurements began.

Agricultural production using nitrogen fertilizers,

such as ammonia, and animal manure contributed 74% of the total anthropogenic N₂O emissions in the last decade. N₂O emissions from human activities, responsible for 6.4% of the effective radiative forcing of greenhouse gases, have added about 0.1 degree Celsius to current global warming.

"This report on the nitrous oxide budget is timely and alarming. It is time India took this wake-up call seriously and changed cropping systems and production practices," said G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, director of the Centre of Sustainable Agriculture.

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The Hindu : _GS 3-Environment –Page 20



An African elephant matriarch leads her calves away from danger in northern Kenya. AP

Elephants call each other by name, study suggests

Reuters

Over the years, researchers who study elephants have noticed an intriguing phenomenon. Sometimes, when an elephant makes a vocalisation to a group of other elephants, all of them respond. Yet, sometimes, when that same elephant makes a similar call to the group, only a single individual responds.

Could it be that elephants address each other by the equivalent of a name? A new

Elephants are the largest land mammals on earth and have distinctly massive bodies, large ears, and long trunks. Elephants are highly intelligent, have keen memory, are known for their problem-solving skills, and engage in complicated behaviour while socializing.

There are **two types** of elephants- **Asian Elephants and African Elephants.**

Asian Elephants are listed as “**Endangered**” on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

There are two subspecies of African elephants, **the Savanna (or bush) elephant and the Forest elephant.**

IUCN Status:

- African forest elephant: Critically Endangered
- African savanna elephant: Endangered

Indian Express- GS 3/Space (Page 8)

Physical Research Laboratory scientists find three new craters on Mars surface

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The scientists of the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on Mars. They have been discovered in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars.

On the recommendation of the PRL, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature approved naming the three craters on Mars.

One crater has been named “Lal crater” after Devendra Lal, a renowned Indian geophysicist and Di-



This computer-generated view depicts a part of Mars at the boundary between darkness and daylight. NASA

rector of the PRL from 1972 to 1983. It is 65-km wide, centered at -20.98° and 209.34° .

The second crater has been named “Mursan crater” after a town in Uttar Pradesh. Mursan is a 10-km

wide crater superimposed on the eastern side of the rim of the Lal crater.

The third is “Hilsa crater”. It is a 10-km wide crater superimposed on the western side of the rim of the Lal crater. It is named

after a town in Bihar.

Explaining the scientific importance of Lal crater, the PRL stated that its entire area, in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars, is covered with lava.

Thick sediment

There is geophysical evidence of material other than lava in this crater, with a 45-metre thick sedimentary deposit in its subsurface. This discovery provides compelling evidence that water has moved large volumes of sediment into the Lal crater.

This finding also confirms that Mars was once wet, and water had flown on the surface.

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Indian Express –Art and Culture(GSI)-Page 8

Joshimath renamed as Jyotirmath, Kosiyakutoli is now Kainchi Dham

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, JUNE 12

THE CENTRE has approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district as Jyotirmath, and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham, an official statement said Wednesday.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had announced the renaming last year. It was a long-standing demand of local residents, who had raised the issue with the CM, citing Joshimath's historical and spiritual significance.

It is believed that the area was originally called Jyotirmath after Adi Guru Shankaracharya visited it in the 8th century to perform penance under the



Joshimath, now Jyotirmath, is considered the gateway to Badrinath Dham. File

Amar Kalpa tree and attained enlightenment (Divya Gyan Jyoti). However, over time, it became popular as Joshimath.

According to the state government statement, Kosiyakutoli in Nainital will now be known as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham tehsil, after Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.

Local residents and devotees of Baba Neem Karori Maharaj expressed their gratitude to CM Dhami, the statement added.

Dhami had proposed the renaming of Kosiyakutoli tehsil to Kainchi Dham during the Kainchi Dham temple's foundation day celebrations on June 15 last year.

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Indian Express:GS 3-Disaster Management/Environment (GSIII) –Page 11

Heatwaves as Disaster

Under provisions of the Disaster Management Act, states can draw money from two specific funds. Since heatwaves are not notified under the Act, states have to use their own funds to deal with their fallout

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

THE ONGOING spell of extreme heat in many parts of the country has reopened discussions on the inclusion of heatwaves as one of the notified disasters under the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005. If this happens, states can be allowed to use their disaster response funds to provide compensation and relief, and carry out a range of other activities to manage the fallout of a heatwave. Currently, states use their own funds for these activities.

What are notified disasters?

The DM Act was enacted in the wake of the 1999 Odisha super-cyclone and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. It defines a disaster as a "catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence" arising from "natural or man-made causes" that results in substantial loss of life, destruction of property, or damage to the environment. They must also be "beyond the coping capacity" of the community.

If such an event takes place, states are allowed to draw money from the two funds that were set up under the DM Act – the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the State

SDRF & NDRF ALLOCATIONS FOR STATES



STATE	ALLOCATION	RELEASE FROM SDRF	RELEASE FROM NDRF	STATE	ALLOCATION	RELEASE FROM SDRF	RELEASE FROM NDRF
Andhra Pradesh	1,315.2	493.6	0	Manipur	41.6	18.8	0
Arunachal Pradesh	245.6	110.4	0	Meghalaya	64.8	27.2	0
Assam	756.8	340.4	0	Mizoram	46.4	20.8	0
Bihar	1,664.8	624.4	0	Nagaland	40.8	18.4	0
Chhattisgarh	508	181.6	0	Odisha	1,886.4	707.6	0
Goa	12.8	4.8	0	Punjab	582.4	218.4	0
Gujarat	1,556.8	1140	0	Rajasthan	1,742.4	653.6	0
Haryana	577.6	216.8	0	Sikkim	49.6	22.4	81.89
Himachal Pradesh	400.8	180.4	787.25	Tamil Nadu	1200	450	0
Jharkhand	667.2	476.8	0	Telangana	528	188.8	0
Karnataka	929.6	348.8	0	Tripura	67.2	30.4	0
Kerala	369.6	138.8	0	Uttar Pradesh	2,273.6	812	0
Madhya Pradesh	2,140.8	802.8	0	Uttarakhand	918.4	413.2	0
Maharashtra	3,788.8	1,420.8	0	West Bengal	1,189.6	446	0

Data for FY 2023-24. All figures in Rs crore. Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

In the last 15 years, however, both the severity and frequency of heatwaves have increased. Moreover, due to increased economic activity, there is also a far larger number of people who have to remain outdoors for their livelihoods or other reasons, exposing them to

sources between the Centre and states. States have demanded the inclusion of heatwaves as notified disasters before the last three FCs.

But the FCs have not been convinced. The 15th FC, whose recommendations are currently being implemented, said the existing

every year. While the recorded number of deaths has not been very high in recent years, this is changing. This year, more than 500 heat-related deaths have already been reported. Once the government is mandated to provide compensation, a larger number

The ongoing spell of **extreme heat** in many parts of the country has once again reopened discussions on the inclusion of heatwaves as one of the notified disasters under the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005.

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If such an event happens, then the provisions of the DM Act can be invoked. The provisions allow states to draw money from the two funds that have been set up under this law — the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) at the national level and the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) at the state level.

Indian Express:GS 1-Society-Page 11

Satnamis: Dalit religious community with a history of protests

ARJUN SENGUPTA
& JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
NEW DELHI, BALODA BAZAR, JUNE 12

MEMBERS of the Satnami religious sect set fire to the office of the Superintendent of Police and pelted the office of the District Collector with stones in Baloda Bazar in central Chhattisgarh on Monday after alleged inaction over the desecration of a religious site at Amar Cave in the district.

Members of the mostly Scheduled Caste Satnami Samaj or Satnam Panth live mainly in Chhattisgarh and contiguous areas of Madhya Pradesh. The desecrated shrine, known as Jitkham, is located about 5 km from Giraudpur village in Baloda Bazar district, at the birthplace of Guru Ghasidas, an 18th century saint to whom the Chhattisgarh Satnamis trace their theological lineage.

Early Satnamis of Narnaul

Guru Ghasidas was born in 1756; however, the antecedents of the sect lie further back in history. The expression sat naam (literally "true name") was popularised by the

15th century Bhakti poet Kabir, but was likely coined earlier.

Kabir, who rejected idolatry and the orthodoxy of organised religion, was a torch-bearer of the nirguna bhakti tradition — the worship of an immanent, formless Absolute, which he referred to as sat naam or saty naam in several of his poems.

In 1657, a mendicant named Birbhan, who was inspired by the teachings of Kabir, founded a Satnami community in Narnaul in present-day Haryana. The Mughal court historian Khafi Khan (1664-1732) wrote that the Satnamis were "some four or five thousand householders in the pargana of Narnaul and Mewat... their livelihood and profession is usually agriculture and trade in the manner of Banias (or tradesmen) with small capital" (Irfan Habib: *The Agrarian System of Mughal India, 1556-1707*).

"Ritual and superstition were condemned, and allegiance was explicitly rendered to Kabir... Caste distinctions within the community of believers were forbidden... An attitude of sympathy with the poor and hostility towards authority and wealth is apparent (in Satnami preachings)," Habib wrote in

his classic 1963 work.

Initially, most Satnamis belonged to an "untouchable" caste engaged in leatherwork. The community has, however, moved away from the profession over time.

Revolt against Aurangzeb

"If anyone should want to impose tyranny and oppression upon (the Satnamis), they will not tolerate it, and most of them bear arms and weapons," Khafi Khan wrote. In 1672, Satnamis living in present-day Punjab and Haryana rose in revolt against Aurangzeb's ever-increasing tax demands.

"The revolt began as a rural affair," Habib wrote. "One of the Satnamis was working in his fields when he exchanged hot words with a (Mughal) *piyada* (foot-trooper), who was guarding the corn heap. The *piyada* broke the Satnami's head by a blow from his stick. Thereupon a crowd of that sect mobbed that *piyada* and beat him so much as to reduce him almost to a corpse." (Habib: *Agrarian System*).

When the local Mughal *shiqdar* (police chief) sent troops to arrest the culprits, open

rebellion broke out. The rebels occupied Narnaul and Bairat for some time, but the Mughals eventually crushed the rebellion and killed thousands of Satnamis. Despite lacking weapons and equipment, the Satnamis fought valiantly and "repeated scenes of the great war of Mahabharata", the Mughal chronicler Saqi Mustad Khan wrote in the *Muzir-i-Alamgiri*.

Revival under Ghasidas

Aurangzeb all but wiped out the community, which would see a revival only in the mid-eighteenth century — in present-day Uttar Pradesh under Jagjivandas, and in present-day Chhattisgarh under Ghasidas.

There are several theories as to the sources of Ghasidas' inspiration and spiritual development — from Sant Ranidas (15th or 16th century) to Kabir. However, "most present-day Satnamis either deny or know nothing of a connection between Ghasidas and the previous Satnami movements" in northern India, religious studies scholar Ramdas Lamb wrote in *Rup in the Name: The*

Ramnamis, Ramnam, and Untouchable Religion in India (2002).

Nonetheless, the religious philosophy of Guru Ghasidas echoed that of the older Satnamis. His "first and foremost rule was the worship of one true God, through the chanting of his name, 'Satnam', and the abolition of any form of image worship," Lamb wrote. This rejection of deity worship effectively allowed the 'untouchable' Satnamis to transcend the restrictions on temple-entry.

Ghasidas also asked his followers to abstain from eating flesh (and flesh-like fruits such as eggplant), and consuming alcohol, smoking, or chewing tobacco. He asked them to use brass utensils instead of clay, stop working with leather and carcasses, and to wear a necklace of beads made from *tubi*, like those worn by the Vaishnavas and Kabirpanthis. He also told his followers to drop their caste names and use 'Satnami' instead.

The Satnamis today

At the time of Ghasidas' death, his following was estimated to be nearly a quarter million strong, belonging almost entirely to a particular Scheduled Caste. He stipulated a

lineage of gurus who would lead the sect after him, starting with his son Balakdas.

According to Lamb, by the late 1800s, a two-tiered organisational structure developed with the guru at the top, and several village-level priests below him. This structure broadly persists even now. "These priests performed marriages, mediated disputes, meted out penance as well as acted as intermediaries in the organisation," Lamb wrote.

Over the years, many Satnamis adopted caste-Hindu practices, beliefs and rituals, and came to see themselves as part of the Hindu religious mainstream. Some started to worship idols of Hindu Gods, and claimed to be of Rajput or even Brahmin lineage.

Satnamis are now an increasingly assertive political force. Satnami leaders enjoy clout over not just members of the sect, but also over the rest of Chhattisgarh's 13% SC population.

The sect has been historically associated with the Congress, but since 2013, some Satnami gurus have shifted allegiance multiple times. The Satnami vote is today divided among various political parties in Chhattisgarh.

- The Satnami Samaj, also known as the Satnam Panth, is a religious movement founded by Ghasidas. The sect mostly comprises Dalits.
- Giraudpur is birthplace of Guru Baba Ghasidas, born in 1756, and Amar Cave is named after one of his five sons, Amardas.

EXPLAINED
HISTORY

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air :GS 1-Social Issues

World Day Against Child Labour: Mobilizing Efforts To End Exploitation And Raise Awareness



- World Day Against Child Labour is being observed today. The day is observed every year aimed at raising awareness and mobilising efforts to end child labour in all its forms. According to United Nations, about sixteen crore children worldwide are victims of child labour, which deprives them of their right to an education and threatens their well-being and future. The theme of this year, World Day Against Child Labour is – Let’s act on our commitments: End Child Labour.