

Decoding The Hindu Article

Retail inflation nears 7% as food prices pinch

Rural consumer inflation touches 7.66%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation accelerated sharply to 6.95% in March, the fastest pace of price gains in almost a year and a half, and marked the third straight month when inflation exceeded the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance threshold of 6%.

A surge in food price inflation, which quickened to 7.68% from 5.85% in February, combined with rising fuel prices and producers passing on higher commodity prices and input costs to consumers across goods and services to drive the overall **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation print to a 17-month high.**

Consumers in rural India faced a higher level of inflation than urban residents, with overall rural inflation

154 basis points higher at 7.66%, as the rural food price index sped past 8% to 8.04% in March, from February's 5.81%.

"Our analysis shows the poor are bearing the burden of inflation the most, given that food – which occupies the largest share of their consumption basket – recorded the sharpest rise," said Dharmakirti Joshi, CRISIL chief economist.

The uptick in fuel prices and their ripple effects on transport and logistics costs are expected to intensify in April, economists said.

"The complete transmission of global fuel prices on domestic prices is expected to be seen in April," said Vivek Rathi, director, research at Knight Frank India.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Ripple	(Noun): a particular feeling or effect that spreads through someone or something.	लहर

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A consumer price index (CPI) is a price index, the price of a weighted average market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. Changes in measured CPI track changes in prices over time.

CRISIL (formerly Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited) is an Indian analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services and is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global.

CRISIL, was the first credit rating agency in India, introduced in 1988 by the ICICI and UTI jointly with share capital coming from SBI, LIC and United India Insurance Company. In April 2005, US based credit rating agency S&P acquired the majority shares of company

Grammar

Gerunds are words that are formed with verbs but act as nouns. They're very easy to spot, since every gerund is a verb with "ing" tacked to its tail. There are no exceptions to this rule.

EXAMPLES: Acting is fun.

(The gerund is the subject of the sentence.)

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Vocabulary

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Grammar

Decoding The Hindu Article

February industrial output growth inches up to 1.7%

Manufacturing shrinks 5.5% from January; consumer goods take a hit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's industrial recovery from the pandemic remained tepid with a 1.7% growth in output in February, a marginal uptick from the revised estimate of 1.46% for January. Manufacturing activity, however, continued to languish.

The February Index of Industrial Production (IIP) numbers released by the National Statistical Office, are relative to a low base in February 2021 when industrial output had contracted 3.2%.

Growth in manufacturing sector output slowed further from 1.3% in January to a mere 0.8% in February, on a year-on-year basis. Manufac-



Woes galore: Rising input costs and supply bottlenecks will further challenge the manufacturing sector. •REUTERS

turing had shrunk 3.4% in the same month a year earlier. On a sequential basis, however, output shrank for the second month in a row, contracting by a sharp 5.5% in February over January.

Mining output rose 4.5%

in February 2022, from a 4.4% contraction in February 2021, while electricity generation grew 4.5% compared with a 0.1% uptick last year. Production in both sectors was, however, lower than January, by 1.2% and

2.9%, respectively. The overall IIP was 4.7% lower in February, than in January.

'Consumption a worry'

"The concerning aspect is that on a sequential basis there has been a contraction in the manufacturing sector, with both consumer durables and non-durables shrinking too, showing that consumption remained a worry," said CARE Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha. The manufacturing sector would further feel the pinch of rising raw material prices and supply bottlenecks, while escalating inflationary pressure would dampen already weak consumer sentiment, she observed.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Languish	(Verb): (of a person, animal, or plant) lose or lack vitality; grow weak.	□□□□□□

Static News

CareEdge Ratings (CARE Ratings Ltd) commenced operations in April 1993 and in almost 3 decades has established itself as one of the leading credit rating agencies in India

For April 2021-February 2022, industrial output saw a growth of 12.5 percent as against a contraction of 11.1 percent in the corresponding period of FY21

Grammar

An infinitive is a non-finite verb. In other words, it cannot be the main verb in a sentence. An infinitive can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

AS NOUNS: To dance was her passion.

(The infinitive , "To dance" is the subject of "was" and therefore, the noun)

He likes to hunt.

(The infinitive "to hunt" is the direct object of "likes" and hence, the noun)



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Decoding The Hindu Article

WTO slashes global trade growth outlook amid war

Cuts 2022 forecast to 3%, from 4.7%

REUTERS
GENEVA

The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Tuesday cut its forecast for global trade growth this year to 3%, from 4.7%, because of the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and warned of a potential food crisis caused by surging prices.

The **WTO** said the conflict, now in its seventh week, had damaged the world economy at a critical juncture as the pandemic – and Chinese lockdowns specifically – continued to weigh on the recovery.

“The economic **reverberations** of this conflict **will** extend far beyond Ukraine’s borders,” **WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** told a news conference, **presenting the findings.**



“It’s now clear the double **whammy** of the pandemic and the war has disrupted supply chains, increased inflationary pressures and lowered expectations for output and trade growth.”

The WTO forecast global trade growth in 2023 would inch up to 3.4%, noting both 2022 and 2023 estimates were less certain than usual due to uncertainty about the conflict.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Reverberations	(Noun): a continuing effect; a repercussion.	□□□□□□ □□□□□
Whammy	(Noun): a an event with a powerful and unpleasant effect; a blow.	□□□ □□□□□

Static News

The World Trade Organization is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations. Governments use the organization to establish, revise, and enforce the rules that govern international trade

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Membership: 164 countries (160 UN countries, EU, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan)

Purpose: Reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade

Founded: 1 January 1995

On February 5, 2021, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria secured the support of the United States for Director-General of the WTO.

Grammar

Perfect participle represents an action as completed some time in the past.

The perfect participle indicates completed action. You form the perfect participle by putting the present participle "having" in front of the past participle.



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Govt. completes NMP deals worth ₹96,000 cr.

Centre targeted ₹88,000 crore in FY22

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The government has completed transactions worth ₹96,000 crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in 2021-22, surpassing the year's target of ₹88,000 crore, according to a top government official.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in August last year announced NMP, under which the government expects to garner about ₹6 lakh crore by leasing public assets in sectors such as airports and roads to the private sector.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended a review meeting on the NMP, which was attended by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, Finance Secretary and Secretaries of



different Ministries. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added that an aggregate target of ₹1.62 lakh crore had been firmed up for FY23.

"We are confident of surpassing the current year's target as well, with proposals worth ₹1.63 lakh crore of accruals and investments in pipeline and at various stages of processing," the official said.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Anonymity	(Noun): the condition of being anonymous.	□□□□□□□□

Static News

The NITI Aayog serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Founder: National Democratic Alliance

Grammar

A participle is a nonfinite verb form that has some of the characteristics and functions of both verbs and adjectives. Read the following sentence:

Hearing a loud noise, the boy woke up.

Here the word hearing qualifies the noun boy as an adjective does. It is formed from the verb hear and has an object – noise. The word hearing, therefore, has the properties of a verb and an adjective and is called a participle.



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Clijsters bids adieu for third time

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Four-time Grand Slam singles champion Kim Clijsters has retired from professional tennis again.

The 38-year-old, who ended her second retirement in 2019 after a seven-year hiatus, announced on Tuesday that she will “no longer play official tournaments.”

“I can’t wait to see what new adventures will cross my path,” the former No. 1 player wrote on Instagram.

Clijsters, who already is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, won the U.S. Open for the first time in 2005 and walked away from tennis two years later at age 23 shortly before getting married.

The Belgian player then took about two years off while having a daughter but returned and won the 2009 U.S. Open. She won another championship at Flushing



Bye again! The Belgian star has announced that she will “no longer play official tournaments”. •REUTERS

Meadows in 2010, then added an Australian Open title the following season and moved back atop the rankings.

Clijsters, who has three children, left the tour again in 2012. “It’s been on my mind for a while,” Clijsters told WTA media. “I still love to hit the ball. With my schedule three, four days was enough to keep my rhythm

under control but definitely not good enough if I decided to play another tournament. Say, if I picked Australia, it’s three, four weeks. That’s just not possible at this stage in our family life. Life just sort of takes over, right?”

Her last official match was in October when she lost in three sets to Katerina Sinikova in the first round at Indian Wells.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Hiatus	(Noun): a pause or break in continuity in a sequence or activity. .	□□□□

Static News

Kim Antonie Lode Clijsters is a former Belgian professional tennis player. Clijsters has been a world No. 1 in both singles and doubles, having held both rankings simultaneously in 2003. She has won a total of six Grand Slam tournament titles, four in singles and two in doubles.

The Grand Slam in tennis is the achievement of winning all four major championships in one discipline in the same calendar year, also referred to as the "Calendar-year Grand Slam" or "Calendar Slam".

Grammar

Stative verbs are verbs that express a state rather than an action. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being and measurements. The stative verbs are all expressing a state: A state of doubting, a state of believing, a state of wanting. These states of being are often temporary.

EXAMPLE:

The doctor disagrees with your analysis.

(Disagree is a stative verb here, as it describes the doctor's state of being – disagreement.)



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