



VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

21 - S E P - 2 0 2 2

FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

CONTENTS

- GSP 01 M News - Southwest monsoon begins early withdrawal in Rajasthan
- GSP 02 A Editorials - Positioning India in a chaotic world
- GSP 02 A News - China keeps Sri Lanka, Pak. waiting for loans
- GSP 02 A News – China remains formidable challenge, says Navy chief Part I
- GSP 02 A News – China remains formidable challenge, says Navy chief Part II
- GSP 02 E Editorials - Intervention plea in Qutub Minar row dismissed
- GSP 02 E News – EWS quota does not erode rights of SCs, STs and OBCs Centre Part I
- GSP 02 E News – EWS quota does not erode rights of SCs, STs and OBCs Centre Part II
- GSP 03 A Editorials - Rice, wheat push up inflation, but South bucks the trend
- GSP 03 P News – No spotted deer brought to Kuno as prey for cheetahs
- GSP 03 U Editorials - Promising signs

Southwest monsoon begins early withdrawal in Rajasthan

September 30 is considered the final day of the season for the entire country; while India has recorded 7% more rainfall than normal, the southern peninsula and central parts have had the bulk of the excess at 29% and 33%, respectively

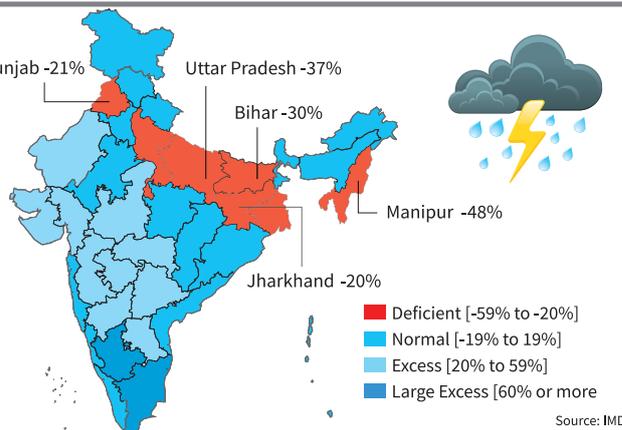
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon rainfall, 7% more than normal, has started to withdraw. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday that the system had begun retreating from parts of southwest Rajasthan and Kutch.

The “normal” or average date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan was September 17. The withdrawal of the monsoon was based on meteorological conditions such as an anti-cyclonic circulation (dry air that is the opposite of a cyclone), the absence of rain in the past five days and the water vapour im-

Uneven spread

While the southwest monsoon had brought in 7% more rainfall than the long period average to India, the geographical spread was uneven. Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of West Bengal and the Northeast ended up with deficient rainfall. The map shows change in rainfall from the long period average this monsoon till September 20



agery indicating dry weather conditions over the region.

The monsoon withdrawal is a long-drawn process and extends into mid-October, though the IMD

considers September 30 to be the final day of the season over India. The rain after that is categorised as “post-monsoon” rainfall.

The September rainfall so far has been 11% more

than usual, following a trend in recent years that is seeing excess rainfall in a month that marks the waning of the monsoon. Most of the rain, however, has been in the southern pe-

ninsula and central India, which have seen 29% and 33% more rain than what is usual for these regions in September.

India has so far recorded 7% more rain than what is normal for the period from June 1 to September 20. The surplus is due to excess rain in central and southern India. The northwest, eastern and northeastern parts of the country have registered a deficit of 4-17% of their normal rainfall.

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said last month that the rainfall average for the country was likely to be above normal, at approximately 109% of the long period average of 167.9 mm for September.

Positioning India in a chaotic world

India's foreign policy mandarins are all set to go into overdrive in the wake of new challenges. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting (September 15-16) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, was a test case for governments on how to deal with current conflicts and attempt new guidelines for the future. Along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi were Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the leaders of Pakistan and other SCO nations. The special significance of this in-person SCO meeting lay in the fact that it was taking place when the world stood at the crossroads, in the wake of the Russia-Ukrainian conflict.

Mr. Xi's initial remarks to Mr. Putin on the sidelines of the conference signalled the divided nature of the world today. Even as the leaders emphasised the strengthening of their ties in defiance of the West, Mr. Xi's remarks that 'China is willing to make efforts with Russia to assume the role of great powers, and play a guiding role to inject stability and positive energy into a world rocked by social turmoil' were pregnant with many meanings. Mr. Putin's response further underlined the extent of global disruption taking place today, and the wide chasm that separated the two warring blocs.

New version of non-alignment

India's presence at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO was significant, reflecting a desire to be a part of both blocs, without antagonising either. The justification provided is that it represented a 'new version' of Non-alignment, *viz.*, steering an independent course, despite open association with rival blocs. At the meeting, Mr. Modi made certain significant observations which mirror India's new version of Non-alignment. For instance, after refusing to take sides in the Ukrainian conflict for months, Mr. Modi told Mr. Putin that "this isn't the era of war", stressing instead that "it was one of democracy, dialogue and diplomacy". This has been interpreted as a mild rebuke of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On the other hand, in his formal opening remarks at the summit, Mr. Modi thanked both Russia and Ukraine for the evacuation of Indian students from Ukraine, highlighting India's posture of equidistance between the two countries.

The philosophical underpinning for this seems to be that 'Nonalignment of the past' had not succeeded, and a way had to be found for "multiple engagements of the future". Mr. Modi's presence at this SCO summit is possibly the earliest test case of this unfolding strategy, given that it is only recently that the United States and



M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

With old fashioned geo-political risks jostling alongside newer political challenges, India's foreign policy planners need to refashion the way they look at issues

other western allies had complimented India for its participation in the Quad (Australia, Japan, India and the U.S.). Whether India can make out a case for 'mixing utopia with reality' under the label of 'multi alignment' is yet to be seen, but it does provide grist to an idea being floated that this provides leeway for India to play a much bigger role in 'managing conflict'.

It would be interesting to see whether this SCO summit will pave the way for India to exploit other situations created by political contradictions and use them to its advantage. A test case is India's relations with Iran which have been on the backburner for some time, following a U.S. threat to impose sanctions on India if it continued to trade with Iran. Iran's President appears to have floated a suggestion to hold a summit meeting with India's Prime Minister, and the ball is apparently in India's court. The cost to India on account of the freeze in relations with Iran has been high, including having to pay higher prices for crude and the inability to utilise the Chabahar Connectivity Project as an alternate route to Afghanistan.

As of now, all this seems at best, to be 'work in progress'. Meantime, however, India's foreign policy is increasingly appearing passive rather than active. Less important events such as abstaining from voting in the United Nations on the Ukraine issue are being touted as policy, ignoring the fact that this has contributed little to peace in Ukraine nor led to a lessening of tensions. This is also the case in our immediate neighbourhood, whether it be Sri Lanka or Afghanistan, where India's foreign policy prescriptions look better on paper than in reality. A preoccupation with Pakistan and constant references to terrorism have kept India's domestic population happy and satisfied, but this does not translate into an effective foreign policy.

Refashioning India's foreign policy has become vital at a time when India is facing a confluence of old and new situations and threats, which often intersect. Such a situation may not be unique, but the nature of rivalries and present global undercurrents makes this extremely tricky. It may require a major overhaul of how we interpret regional and international tensions that have increased. For India, this poses a whole new paradigm of challenges, and it is important for India not to become the odd man out, as patterns change. New priorities need to be devised without squandering the past inheritance of managing to remain independent of conflicting blocs.

Ties with China

Jettisoning an erroneous belief that prevails among some sections of India's foreign policy establishment, *viz.*, that the erstwhile policy of Non-alignment had done little to enhance India's image, should be the beginning, followed by deeper introspection before effecting fundamental changes in the policy of Non-alignment. While, China today presents an acute 'near-term problem' for India, it is important that India does not fall into the trap that the current adversarial relationship with China is 'carved in stone', and can or never will be altered. India's foreign policy should be creative enough to leave an opening for an improvement in India-China relations over the longer term.

Again, the intensity of the current conflict

between India and China should not lead India's strategic establishment to overlook the fact that the primary conflict between India and China is 'civilizational', and not for territory. The two countries may never have a 'lips and teeth relationship', but given the history of nations there is enough scope for India to formulate a policy that would not completely close the doors on China for all time. Hence, India's foreign policy mandarins must look for opportunities for the betterment of relations at an opportune time, which could well arise when China's economy begins to stall and India's economy (in-line with the expectations of economists worldwide) rises, moderating China's current aggressive behaviour.

Refashioning relations with China over the longer term is important, but attention also needs to be given on how to manage relations in the near term in the context of the growing closeness in China-Russia relations. As their relations become closer, they have the potential of adversely impacting the current warmth in India-Russia relations. Our foreign policy experts need to consider how best to manage the relationship with both Russia and China in the extant circumstances. The watchword here again is that there is no permanence in the nature of relationships among nations, more so with the so-called Big Powers.

Nuclear dimension

An issue that has remained on the backburner for years may now need consideration in the context of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, *viz.*, the nuclear dimension. Seldom mentioned, but present nevertheless like Banquo's Ghost, are concerns about the possible use of nuclear weapons that have been raised in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India, no doubt, has been a firm adherent of the 'No First Use Doctrine', and while nuclear relationships involving India, China and Pakistan have remained remarkably subdued over many years, India's strategic and foreign policy establishment cannot afford to overlook the nuclear aspect, given that the country is wedged between two active, and hostile, nuclear powers – China and Pakistan.

Nuclear stability, as we have known for some years now, could well change in the near future. What cannot also be ignored in this context is the growing sophistication of Chinese nuclear forces, and to a lesser extent that of Pakistan, which has the effect of putting India at a disadvantage with both predictable and unpredictable consequences. India's new foreign policy imperatives cannot again afford to ignore this aspect, even though at present India is the only one among the three that does not see nuclear weapons as intended for use in the event of a war. Nevertheless, it behoves India's strategic and foreign policy establishment to consider how best to prevent 'debilitating strategic instability' – with regard to China in particular – given the pace at which China's nuclear arsenal is growing.

Hence, navigating the coming decade promises to be extremely demanding, if not dangerous, with old fashioned geopolitical risks jostling alongside newer political challenges. It demands a total transformation of the way India's foreign policy planners look at issues today. It may well necessitate giving up many of the existing policy constructs, providing for a wider outreach, and ensuring that our policy is not merely in step with current needs but is always a step ahead.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

China keeps Sri Lanka, Pak. waiting for loans

Beijing asked both countries 'to tide over difficulties together, fully trust each other, and support each other's core interests on the way forward', but did not detail any offers of assistance

Ananth Krishnan

Meera Srinivasan

BEIJING/COLOMBO

China has offered Pakistan's visiting Army Chief technical help as the country deals with record floods, but did not announce any substantial financial assistance which its "all-weather" ally has been seeking.

Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka, facing financial stress, have been engaged in long-running talks with Beijing for assistance, but with negotiations in both cases having made little headway, both countries have turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Their new IMF commitments are now likely to impact their owed payments to China, which has lent the two countries more than \$26 billion in the past five years.

Following talks in Xi'an between Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and China's Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe, the Chinese side expressed willingness to provide technical assistance for flood relief work, Pakistan's official Inter Services Public Relations said.

Chinese State media quoted Gen. Wei as calling on both countries "to tide over difficulties together, fully trust each other, and unswervingly support each



Friendly terms: Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe (right) meets with Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, chief of the Pakistan Army, in Shaanxi Province of China, on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

other's core interests on the way forward" but did not detail any offers of assistance.

Chinese media noted that Beijing had previously provided relief supplies worth \$57 million.

Earlier this month, Pakistan's government assured the IMF it would reduce capacity payments owed to Chinese projects or seek to restructure loans, with over \$1.09 billion still owed to Chinese power producers.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has been pressing Beijing for a \$4 billion loan, but talks that have dragged on for several months appear to have not yielded an agreement.

Rather than restructure Sri Lanka's existing debt,

Beijing has indicated it would prefer to instead extend new loans to an already heavily indebted economy.

Staff level agreement

On September 1, Sri Lanka and the IMF reached a staff level agreement with the Fund set to support Sri Lanka with an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of \$2.9 billion, contingent upon Sri Lanka's successful debt restructuring efforts, which will hinge in part on China's agreeability.

Sri Lanka's creditors also include International Sovereign Bond (ISB) holders, multilateral lending agencies and other bilateral partners such as Japan and India.

While Japan and India

have been very supportive of the IMF process from the beginning, all eyes were on China to see if it would play ball, although some analysts in Sri Lanka expressed hope citing China's willingness to work on a debt relief deal in Zambia.

In response to Sri Lanka's IMF agreement, Beijing said that as a "traditional friendly neighbour" of Sri Lanka and a "major shareholder" of the IMF, China has "always been encouraging" the IMF and other international financial institutions "to continue to play a positive role in supporting Sri Lanka's response to current difficulties, efforts to ease debt burden and realise sustainable development."

China remains formidable challenge, says Navy chief

Admiral Hari Kumar says Beijing has maintained a continuous presence in the Indian Ocean Region since 2008 by leveraging anti-piracy operations to normalise its naval presence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

China remains a formidable challenge and has increased its presence not only along India's land borders, but also in the maritime domain by leveraging anti-piracy operations to normalise its naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said on Wednesday.

Admiral Kumar was speaking on the security challenges that India faces.

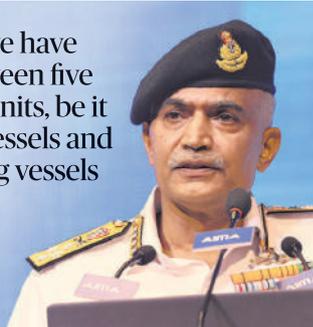
Navy presence

The Navy chief noted that China had maintained continuous presence in the IOR since 2008 using anti-piracy operations "as the reason".

"At any point we have anything between five to

 At any point we have anything between five to eight Chinese Navy units, be it warships or research vessels and a host of Chinese fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean Region

ADMIRAL R. HARI KUMAR
Navy Chief



eight Chinese Navy units, be it warships or research vessels and a host of Chinese fishing vessels operating in the IOR. We keep a watch on them and see how they are undertaking their activities in the IOR," Admiral Kumar said at the 49th annual management convention of the All India Management Association.

He said China now had a base in Djibouti, and was also involved in the development of various ports in

the IOR, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan and many other countries.

National interests

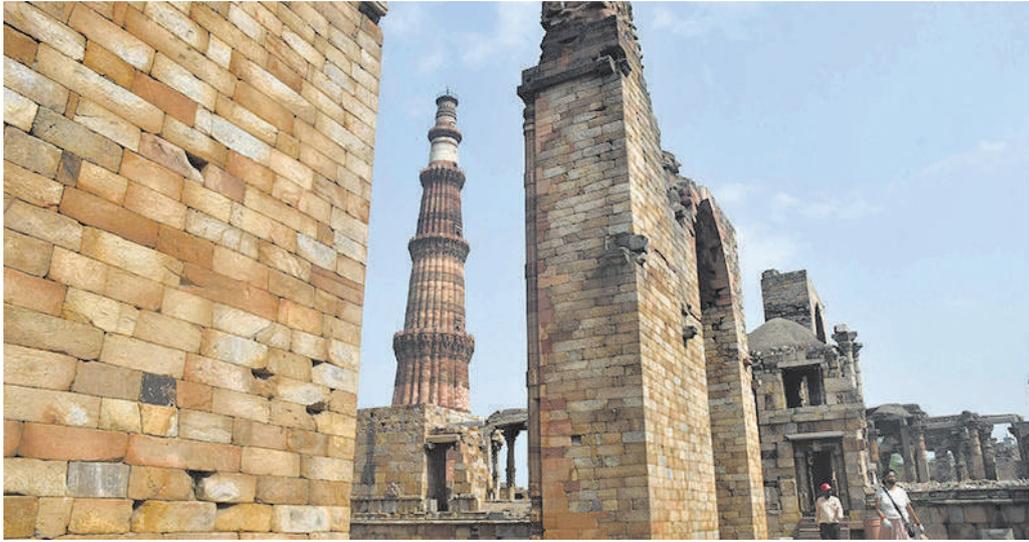
"Our capability plans and developments that we are looking at is not based on a nation, it is based upon our requirements to protect, preserve and promote our national interests," Admiral Kumar said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

China is a formidable challenge: Navy chief

“That is how we structure our force and while structuring the force and developing the capability, these get factored and enable us to keep the Indian Ocean under surveillance,” he said, adding that the Navy conducted aircraft sorties and had ships deployed almost 24X7 to keep an eye on the IOR. On the experience with Russian equipment, Admiral Kumar said they were reliable and while there had been teething issues with some of the systems, they had received support from Russia.

Some technologies which we have not been able to get from other sources, they have been able to support us, he said. “While competition is being played out on a daily basis but without escalating into armed action, a war with potential adversaries can never be ruled out,” Admiral Kumar said. “To the west, Pakistan, despite economic constraints, has continued its military modernisation, especially its Navy, which is on track to becoming a 50-platform force,” he added.



Intervention plea in Qutub Minar row dismissed

The Saket district court on Tuesday dismissed the intervention plea of Kunwar Mahender Dhvaj Pratap Singh who claimed that the Qutub Minar was built on land that belonged to him and hence he should be made party to the main suit filed in the court that demands worship rights in the temples built inside the ASI-protected monument. Dismissing the plea, Additional District Judge Dinesh Kumar said that he will be hearing the main suit, filed on behalf of Jain deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev and Hindu deity Lord Vishnu (through their next of friends) that seeks restoration of 27 Hindu and Jain temples at the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque inside the Qutub Minar, next month.

EWS quota does not erode rights of SCs, STs and OBCs: Centre

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) of society does not erode the rights of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes, Attorney-General of India K.K. Venugopal submitted before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit on Tuesday.

Mr. Venugopal, for the Centre, said the EWS quota was given independent of the already existing 50% reservation granted for the backward classes, that is, the Scheduled communities and the OBCs.

The top law officer rejected arguments by petitioners that the exclusion of backward classes from the EWS quota amounted to discrimination. "So far as the SCs and STs are concerned, they have been



 SCs, STs have been loaded with benefits by way of affirmative actions

K.K. Venugopal
Attorney-General of India

loaded with benefits by way of affirmative actions. They are in a tremendous position as far as reservations are concerned," Mr. Venugopal submitted.

As if to illustrate, the Attorney-General pointed to several Articles in the Constitution which provide backward classes with reservation in promotions, in panchayats, municipal bodies and legislative bodies.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

EWS quota does not erode rights: Centre

Mr. Venugopal argued that the reservation for the backward classes, and now the EWS quota, should be considered by the court as “one single approach of the state intended for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society”. The law officer said there were Supreme Court judgments of the past which had upheld State benefits solely based on the economic criterion.

Mr. Venugopal’s written submissions referred to how the court had stood by the validity of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. “This court had held that the 2009 Act seeks to remove all barriers, including financial and psychological barriers which a child belonging to the weaker section and disadvantaged group has to face while seeking admission and therefore upheld it under Article 21 of the Constitution. Furthermore, it held that earmarking of seats for children belonging to a specified category satisfies the test of classification in Article 14.”

Rice, wheat push up inflation, but South bucks the trend

Cereal inflation highest since 2014, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh cross the 15% mark

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

After decelerating for three consecutive months, India's retail inflation accelerated to 7% in August 2022. A major factor behind this uptick was a reversal in retail food inflation which declined to 6.7% in July but went up again to 7.6% in August. In turn, the surge in food inflation was due to rising cereal prices which quickened to 9.5% in August – the highest since February 2014.

While overall food inflation was high, wide variations were observed across major States. Particularly, the Southern States bucked the trend and recorded very low levels of food inflation in August. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka were at the bottom of the list when major States were compared for retail food inflation. The August food inflation in these four States was 5% or less. Food inflation was lower than the national average in Telangana (6%) too.

In contrast, the western States of Gujarat (11.5%) and Rajasthan (10.4%) were at the top of the list with a retail food inflation of over 10% in August. The other States which had food inflation higher than the national average include West Bengal (10.3%), Uttar Pradesh (9.2%), Maharashtra and Uttarakhand (8.5%).

Chart 1 shows India's overall retail inflation and food and beverage retail inflation since 2019. The overall retail inflation, after accelerating to 7.79% in April 2022, softened for three consecutive months. But the trend reversed with retail inflation touching the 7% mark in August 2022. In the case of food and beverages retail inflation, after accelerating to 8.1% in April 2022 – highest in 17 months – it softened for three consecutive months. But similar to retail inflation, here too the trend re-

versed in August.

Chart 2 plots item-wise retail inflation in August 2022 for all food-related products on the vertical axis. The chart also plots the weight of those items in the inflation calculation on the horizontal axis. The retail inflation of rice and wheat/wheat flour – from sources other than PDS – which carries the most weightage among food-related items, accelerated to 6.9% and 15.7% respectively in August 2022. In August, rice inflation was highest in over 20 months while wheat/wheat flour inflation was highest since at least January 2015. In fact, wheat/wheat flour inflation has surged this financial year, with each month recording over 9% of retail inflation.

Due to rising local prices, the government imposed an export ban on broken rice on September 9 and mandated an export duty of 20% on various grades of rice. After the ban on wheat exports in mid-May, the demand for Indian wheat flour surged pushing up the local prices. So, in late August, India imposed restrictions on wheat flour too, to rein in the prices.

Table 3 shows State-wise food & beverage retail inflation in August. The southern States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka feature at the bottom of the table whereas Gujarat and Rajasthan are at the top.

Table 4 shows State-wise retail inflation in August 2022 for cereals, meat and fish and vegetables – the three sub-groups which carry the most weightage under the “food and beverage” group. Except Kerala in the cereal sub-group, the southern States recorded low-levels of retail inflation across all three sub-groups. In the cereal sub-group, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka recorded less than 3% of retail inflation. In the meat and fish sub-group, many Southern States recorded deflation. And in the vegetable sub-group, the inflation was 5% or less in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Inflation highs and lows

The charts and tables show how wheat and rice prices pushed up retail inflation in the North, East and West regions of India while the South remained relatively unscathed. The data was sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation



Chart 1 | Chart shows India's overall retail inflation and food and beverage retail inflation since 2019

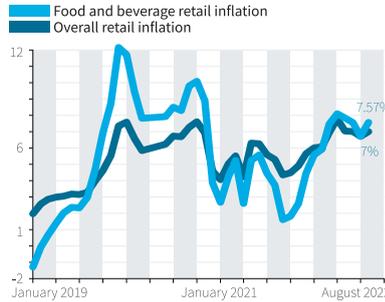


Table 3 | Table shows the State-wise food & beverage retail inflation in August. All the southern States had inflation much lower than India's average

State	Food
Gujarat	11.5
Rajasthan	10.4
W.B.	10.3
U.P.	9.2
Maharashtra	8.5
Uttarakhand	8.5
Haryana	7.6
M.P.	7.6
Odisha	7.6
India	7.6
Punjab	7.0
Assam	6.8
Himachal	6.7
Telangana	6.0
Bihar	6.0
Chhattisgarh	5.9
Jharkhand	5.8
Karnataka	5.4
Kerala	4.7
Andhra	4.5
Tamil Nadu	4.1

nihalani.j@thehindu.co.in, vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in

Chart 2 | Chart plots item-wise retail inflation for all food-related products against their weight in inflation calculation

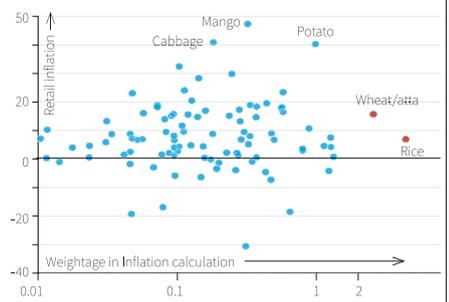


Table 4 | Table shows retail inflation in August 2022 for cereals, meat and fish and vegetables

State	Vegetables	Cereals	Meat & fish
Gujarat	27.6	12.8	3.6
Assam	26.8	1.0	4.3
Maharashtra	23.5	7.4	1.3
Uttarakhand	18.5	7.9	2.4
Odisha	18.3	4.9	0.8
W.B.	16.2	21.2	4.4
Rajasthan	15.3	18.1	5.4
Punjab	13.7	7.5	3.6
M.P.	13.5	10.1	5.0
U.P.	13.2	15.2	5.3
Chhattisgarh	9.9	3.8	2.2
Telangana	9.0	2.1	-2.1
Haryana	8.6	9.2	11.9
Kerala	6.9	14.3	-0.1
Karnataka	5.1	1.9	1.1
Andhra	4.2	3.2	-9.1
Jharkhand	3.5	11.2	2.2
Tamil Nadu	3.1	2.7	-4.5
Bihar	1.3	9.0	4.3

‘No spotted deer brought to Kuno as prey for cheetahs’

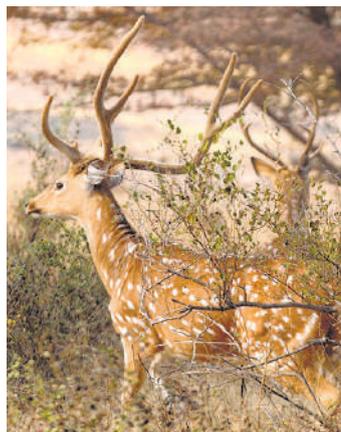
Jacob P. Koshy

NEW DELHI

The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has denied reports that chital, or spotted deer, from Rajasthan are being ferried to the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh for the newly acquired cheetahs to prey on them.

On Tuesday, several media outlets reported that members of the Bishnoi community in Rajasthan which is active in wildlife conservation had written to the Prime Minister, protesting against the alleged capture of chital by Forest Department officials to bolster prey numbers in the Kuno reserve.

On Saturday, Mr. Modi released three cheetahs – out of a batch of eight brought from Namibia – into a protected enclosure at the KNP. Sambar and chital would constitute preferred prey for the wild cats. “No chital has been brought from Rajasthan into Kuno. There are already close to 20,000 chital in the forest here. There are several wildlife parks in Madhya Pradesh with surplus chital population. During summers, many spots see a scarcity of water and fodder and these



Relocation of chital is for better access to food and water, say authorities.

animals are sometimes relocated to help them access food and water,” Madhya Pradesh Chief Wildlife Warden Jasbir Singh Chauhan said in a statement.

As part of these relocations, chital were being moved to the Satpura National Park, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Nauradehi forest and KNP. These animals were also moved around because they would graze on standing crop and cause losses to those who lived in the vicinity, he added.



Enjoy watching our video

India's move to bring back cheetahs

bit.ly/cheetahsvid

Promising signs

Even if conditional, the NSCN(IM)'s peace intention breaks a deadlock

The decision by the insurgent Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah faction) to re-engage in talks with the Union government, conditionally, on the basis of the Framework Agreement signed in August 2015, is a welcome one. This breaks a deadlock that has persisted in talks since October 2019, which was set as a deadline for the peace accord. The possibility of a resumption of talks received a boost last week when the NSCN(IM) and other Naga groups represented in the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) pledged in a joint statement to “overcome the cynicism” and that they are “committed to a dialogue in order to move forward” the talks for an accord. With a group of legislators and Ministers from the State meeting up with the NSCN(IM)'s representatives – a step that has borne fruit – the stage is now set to take forward the talks, a process that seems to have been put on the backburner in October 2019. The Centre and the NSCN(IM) must review what went wrong since the Framework Agreement was reached in 2015 and the complexities that have remained since the landmark ceasefire agreement that was signed between the two parties in 1997.

One key factor preventing a comprehensive peace accord has been the splintered nature of the Naga insurgency and the need for the Centre to deal with groups other than the NSCN(IM). But the insurgency as a whole has weakened considerably over time and this has paved the way for talks to a negotiated accord. Second, the demands related to the greater “Nagalim”, made by the NSCN(IM) apart from other rebels would have implications in other States, and this has complicated negotiations. Any agreement would have to be careful about not changing the boundaries of the existing States in the country as doing so could spark conflagrations in other North-east States where inter-ethnic relations remain volatile. While the machinations by the Centre in getting a deal done, especially the secretive nature of the talks, have played a part in the deadlock in talks, it is clear that the obdurate and intransigent demand for a separate flag and a Naga constitution by the NSCN(IM) has been a stumbling block as well. The spat between the former Governor and interlocutor R.N. Ravi and the NSCN(IM) also did not help matters. The differences of opinion on the aforementioned issues need to be dealt with directly by the representatives of the Naga groups and the Government. It is not enough to promise a solution for the sake of publicity.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.