

# As India develops, problem of high food inflation will get less severe: RBI MPC member Ashima Goyal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The problem of high food inflation will be "less severe" in India going ahead, as modern supply chains with diversified sources can help quickly address sudden spikes in prices of specific food items, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Ashima Goyal said on Thursday.



Stressing that the share of food in the household budget is high in India, Goyal said policy needs to focus on increasing agricultural productivity, since stable agricultural prices are important for non-inflationary growth. "As India develops, this problem (high food inflation) will get less severe, for a number of reasons. Modern supply chains with diversified sources respond quickly to large spikes in specific items," she told PTI. Goyal further pointed out that one does not hear of tomato or onion prices spiking in advanced economies. "We naturally have diverse geographic regions, better integrated markets sourcing from different regions can help mitigate climate change

induced food price spikes," she said. Moreover, as the weight of food in consumption falls and food consumption itself becomes more diversified, the impact and size of future food price shocks falls, she noted. Goyal stressed that under flexible inflation targeting, expectations get better anchored. She cited the example of East Asia, where food prices were allowed to rise and agriculture was subsidized only after food budget shares fell. "India unfortunately opted for a distorting system of subsidies to farmers as well as to consumers," she said,

prices. The inflation in the food basket was at 8.52 per cent in March, down from 8.66 per cent in February. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has recently said that the baseline projections show inflation moderating to 4.5 per cent in 2024-25, from 5.4 per cent in 2023-24, and 6.7 per cent in 2022-23. Replying to a question on India's current macroeconomic situation, Goyal said conditions have been created for sustainable and inclusive growth.

"We are seeing results since 2021 with continued robust growth, reduction in multi-dimensional poverty, more assets and infrastructure sustainably helping the lower income groups, more opportunities for youth," she said. Goyal said inequality has risen but the famous 'Kuznets inverted U-curve' tells us that this is normal in a period of high growth and should come down over time. But for the economy to continue on such a path, the eminent economist said policy continuity is very important. "Policy lessons on what worked must be internalized,

domestic policy shocks avoided and external shocks smoothed, even as supply-side enabling reforms continue," Goyal suggested. She emphasized on the need of enhancing the economy's resilience and diversity saying, "we live in troubled times of geopolitical, geoeconomic and climate fragilities."

During 2023-24, the economy is likely to record a growth rate of near 8 per cent on account of good performance of manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's growth projection to 6.8 per cent for 2024, from its January forecast of 6.5 per cent, citing bullish domestic demand conditions and a rising working-age population.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) also raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7 per cent, from 6.7 per cent earlier, saying the robust growth will be driven by public and private sector investment demand and gradual improvement in consumer demand.

# 112 medical graduates of 58th batch of AFMC, Pune, commissioned into armed forces

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A total of 112 medical graduates of the 58th batch of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, have been commissioned into the armed forces, officials on Thursday said.

Of these 112 cadets commissioned into the Armed Forces Medical Services, 87 are Gentlemen Cadets and 25 are Lady Cadets. 81 of them were commissioned into the Army, 10 commissioned into the Navy and 14 commissioned into the Indian Air Force, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"In a spectacular ceremony one hundred and twelve medical graduates of the 58th batch of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, were commissioned into the Indian Armed Forces on April 25 at Capt Devashish Sharma, Kirti Chakra Parade Ground, AFMC," the ministry said.

The chief guest at the ceremony was Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) and Senior Colonel Commandant, Army Medical Corps, Lt Gen Dajit Singh.

The DGAFMS reviewed the Commissioning parade that was commanded by medical



cadet (now Lieutenant) Sushil Kumar Singh, the statement said.

Congratulating the newly commissioned officers, Lt Gen Singh exhorted them to serve the country and the armed forces with utmost dedication and wished them a bright and prosperous future.

"The cadets from the 58th batch of AFMC performed exceptionally well in the MUHS winter 2023 examinations and a total of one hundred and forty seven cadets graduated including five cadets from friendly foreign countries," it added.

Academic awards presentation ceremony was held after the spectacular commissioning ceremony.

The President's Gold Medal and the Kalinga Trophy are two of the most prestigious awards of the college.

The President's Gold Medal

was this year awarded to Flying Officer Ayush Jaiswal and the Kalinga Trophy to Surgeon Sub Lieutenant Bani Kaur, the statement said.

Ranked amongst the top five medical colleges in the country, globally acknowledged for providing quality medical education and healthcare services, the AFMC was awarded the President's Colour by President Droupadi Murmu on December 1, 2023 for 75 glorious years of service to the nation, it said.

It was also awarded the Chief of Defence Staff Unit Citation by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on March 18 this year, the statement said. The event was attended among others by senior serving officers, veterans, faculty officers, medical and nursing cadets, and parents and families of cadets who were commissioned.

# CM Shinde likens work done by PM Modi to Himalayas; hits out at Uddhav with 'chameleon' jibe

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday likened the accomplishments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last ten years to the Himalayas and said the work done by the Congress was like a hillock.

Addressing an election rally in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Shinde also took potshots at Uddhav Thackeray, saying he had never seen a "chameleon" that changes colours so fast.

This Lok Sabha election is all about the development of progress, growth and making Narendra Modi the prime minister for the third time, he said.

Shinde was canvassing for Shiv Sena candidate Sandeepan Bhumre, who is also his cabinet colleague.

Bhumre, who filed his nomination from Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar) will take on Chandrakant Khaire of Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and AIMIM's sitting MP Imtiaz Jaleel. "The work done by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in the last ten years can be compared to the height of the Himalayas while the work done by the Congress is like a 'tekdi' (hillock)," he said. Shinde claimed even a man who is asleep will prefer Modi over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi because the country has got a prime minister who has not taken a day off in the last 10 years. Playing an audio clip of Thackeray's old speech appealing to the people to vote for Modi, Shinde said he had never seen a "chameleon" that changes colours so fast.

"Earlier, they would sing praises of Narendra Modi. Chameleons change their colours. But I saw a chameleon that changes colours so fast for the first time," he said at the rally in the Gulmandi area.

Shinde also sought votes for Raosaheb Patil Danve, BJP leader and Mahayuti candidate for neighbouring Jalna Lok Sabha seat.

Aurangabad and Jalna Lok Sabha seats will go to polls in the fourth phase on May 13. "They criticise me saying I go in a helicopter and do farming (at his village). It takes 8 hours for me to reach

Mahabaleshwar (near Shinde's village). But I can sign 10,000 files in those eight hours," he said.

Referring to Congress leader Sam Pitroda's "inheritance tax" remark, Shinde said Congress has set eyes on the property of the poor even before the election is over.

About the Congress' election manifesto, Shinde said, "Congress has no right to publish their manifesto. They should first tell what they did earlier. They should bring out a 'mafinama' (apology) instead of a manifesto."



## 5 drug peddlers arrested; contraband substances recovered

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 5 drug peddlers in Anantnag, Baramulla & Sopore and recovered contraband substances alongwith cash from their possession.

In Anantnag, police party from Police Station Bijbehara laid down a naka at Jablipora Bijbehara apprehended one person identified as Mohd Shafi Dar son of Gh Mohd Dar resident of Tulkhan Bijbehara and recovered about 780 grams of Charas Powder and a cash amount of Rs 37,740/- from his possession. Moreover, another police party from Police Post Sangam during naka checking at Panchpora Astan Pora crossing intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK03A-7906. During checking, about 7Kgs of Poppy Straw like substance was recovered from the said vehicle. Driver of the vehicle identified as Shakir Ahmad Ganie son of Gulzar Ahmad Ganie resident of T.M Shah Bijbehara was arrested and vehicle used in the commission of crime was also seized.

In Baramulla, a police party led by SHO PS Kreeri at a checkpoint established at Kreeri Baramulla intercepted two persons. During search, 35 grams of Charas like substances & cash amount of Rs 5K was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Suhail Ahmad Bhat son of Hilal Ahmad resident of Vizer Wagoora & Mohd Ashraf Khan son of Mohd Yousuf resident of Frasthar.

In Sopore, a police party of Police Post Fruit Mandi headed by IC PP Fruit Mandi under the supervision of SDPO Sopore Sarfaraz Bashir and SHO PS Sopore at a checkpoint established at Vijbal apprehended one person identified as Aamir Rasool Gajree son of Ghulam Rasool Gajree resident of Syed Kareem Baramulla. During his search, 10 grams of heroin like substance was recovered.

All the accused drug peddlers have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

## Notorious woman drug smuggler booked under PIT NDPS Act

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BARAMULLA: Acting tough against drug peddlers/smugglers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have booked one lady notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention order from competent authority.

The notorious lady drug smuggler resident of Shahwalayat Colony Umerabad Srinagar has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug smuggler and was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Pattan, Tangmarg Nowpora, Wagoora, Kreeri & other areas of District. Despite her involvement in many FIRs, she did not mend her activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

General public of Baramulla appreciated the role of Police for their action against drug peddlers. Police' consistent actions against the drug peddlers should reassure the community members that police is making all efforts to keep our society free from drug abuse.

## 3 gamblers arrested, stake money seized

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SOPORE: Continuing its drive against social crimes, police have arrested 03 gamblers in Sopore and seized stake money and playing cards from their possession.

A police party of Police Station Bomai headed by SHO PS Bomai under the supervision of SDPO Sopore Sarfaraz Bashir apprehended 03 gamblers at Malmampora & recovered stake money of Rs 3,780 & playing cards from their possession. They have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Mir son of Abdul Jabbar Mir, Bashir Ahmad Malla son of Abdul Jabbar Malla and Feroz Ahmad Malla son of Ghulam Mohammad Malla, all residents of Malmampora Sopore.

In this connection, a case vide FIR No. 24/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Bomai and investigation has been initiated.

## 6 vehicles seized, 6 drivers arrested for Illegal mining and transportation of minerals

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BARAMULLA: Cracking a whip on illegal mining and transportation of minerals,

Police have seized 6 vehicles and arrested 6 drivers in Baramulla.

The Police initiated the action under the supervision of SDPO Pattan/Tangmarg/Kreeri assisted by SHO PS Kreeri, IC PP Kungambara & PP Mirgund seized 6 vehicles (4 tractors and 2 tippers), involved in illegal mining and transportation of minerals at Shrai, Khanpeth, Goom Ahmadpora, Kungambara & Kreeri Baramulla. The accused drivers have been identified as Ashiq Hussain Khokar son of Mohammad Arshid resident of Cheek Treeran, Asif Ali Bhat son of Ali Mohammad resident of Odina, Mohd Ibrahim Wani son of Gh Mohd resident of Goom Ahmadpora, Zahoor Ahmad Ganie son of Mohammad Akbar resident of Kungambara, Mohd Shafi Dar son of Gh Mohd & Parvaiz Ahmad Lone son of Mohammad Sultan both residents of Jal Sheeri.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been taken up.

## Chitta, Rs 6 lakh drug money seized from notorious drug peddlers' house

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Operation Sanjeevani - Police Station Bari Brahmana under guidance of SSP Samba Vinay Sharma, has seized about Rs 6 lakhs drug money and Heroin(Chitta) from house/kullah of notorious drug peddler.

It is informed that Police Station Bari Brahmana had received an information from a reliable secret source about drug money in possession and Chitta being sold by a notorious drug peddler named Mohd Baru and his associate near Balole Khad, Bari Brahmana. On this information a search party consisting of SHO Bari Brahmana Sumeet Sharma, PSI Ibrar Ul Haq, Naib Tehsildar Bari Brahmana, Rahul Singh Rana, led by SDPO Bari Brahmana, Mukund Tibrewal, IPS reached the spot and searched the Kullah thoroughly.

On search Rs 5,88,660 drug money and 9.54 gms Heroin(Chitta) was recovered from house/Kullah of Mohd Baru. However said drug peddler and his associate managed to flee from the spot. The search of both the drug peddlers is ongoing. Both drug money and Chitta has been seized by PS Bari Brahmana in case FIR No. 52/2024 u/s 8/21/27-A/29 of NDPS Act.

It is also informed that drug peddler Mohd Baru also has previous NDPS cases against him. PS Bari Brahmana has started a detailed investigation in the case, including financial investigation so as to ascertain backward linkages.

This stringent action against narcotics trade comes in backdrop of various property seizure of drug dealers in Samba. It shows relentless resolve of Samba Police to eradicate the menace of drug from District Samba.

Police requests residents/citizens to come out and help Police to control the problem of narcotics which is severely affecting youth of this country.

## Three drug peddlers arrested with heroin in Kathua

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: Three drug peddlers were arrested on Thursday from Kathua district here, and over 250 grams of heroin was recovered from their possession, police said.

An information was received through the reliable sources at Police Station Kathua that four persons namely Sharief alias Bulli, son of Bashir Ali, resident of Pind Landian Tehsil Mukerian District Hoshiarpur; Bhag Hussain alias Bhaga, son of Teg Ali, resident of Nangal Labana Landian Tehsil Mukerian District Hoshiarpur; Maskeen Ali, son of Suram Ali, resident of Magar Khad Tehsil & District Kathua & Gulzar Ahmed alias Lahu, son of Bashir Ahmed, resident of Sarore Adda Bari Brahmana at present Waziru Chak Tehsil Bishnah District Jammu were doing illegal trade of selling Narcotics like Contraband and kept huge quantity of narcotics substance in their possession and trying to sell same to the people of Bhagthali area near Mega Infrastructure Company Kathua. Acting swiftly, a team of Police Station Kathua under the supervision of DySP Hqrs. Kathua & SHO PS Kathua laid down a special naka/ checking at Bhagthali area was able to apprehend three persons namely Sharief alias Bulli, Bhag Hussain alias Bhaga and Maskeen Ali whereas one person namely Gulzar Ahmed alias managed to escape from the spot.

During checking approx. 284.41 grams of Heroin(Chitta) narcotics were recovered from their illegal possession. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics were seized and three drug peddlers were arrested on spot. On this case vide FIR No. 126/2024 U/S 8/21/22/NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Kathua while further investigation is underway.



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## 5 missing persons including 4 girls traced, reunites with their families

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Police on Thursday traced five missing persons including four girls from different areas and reunited them with their families whose missing reports were lodged at Police Post RakhAmbTalli falling under the jurisdiction of PS Samba.

The family members of missing persons hailing from Raipur, Rehian, Raipur Camp & Panglour respectively had approached police and lodged their missing reports at Police Post RakhAmbTalli. Accordingly, missing reports were entered vide DD No. 14 on April 5, 2023, September 26, 2023, April 20, 2024, and April 23, 2024.

With continuous strenuous efforts, team of Police Post Rakh Amb Talli headed by Incharge PP succeeded in recovering the missing persons including four girls from different areas and reuniting them with their families. The said missing reports have been closed accordingly.

## 2 bootleggers arrested with 72 bottles of illicit liquor

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: In its drive against the sale of illicit liquor in the district, Police on Thursday arrested two bootlegger in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana & Police Station Vijaypurand recovered 72 bottles of illicit liquor from their possession.

A police party of Police Station Bari Brahmana headed by SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana while performing patrolling duty near Railway Chowk Bari Brahmana, apprehended a bootlegger identified as Ajay Kumar, son of Janak Raj, resident of Rehal Kheri tehsil Bishnah district Jammu and recovered 52 bottles of JK Special Whiskey of 180 ml each from his possession.

A case FIR No. 51/2024 U/S 48(a) Excise Act has been registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

Similarly, acting on a tip off regarding sale of illicit liquor near canal road Vijaypur, a Police Party of Police Station Vijaypur headed by SHO Vijaypur raided the spot and recovered 20 bottles of JK Special Whisky of 180 ml each & cash of Rs3750 earned after the sale of illicit liquor from the accused person identified as Ashok Kumar, son of Both Raj, resident of Vijaypur. The said accused has been arrested and illicit liquor has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 59/2024 U/S 48 (a) Excise Act has been registered at PS Vijaypurand investigation started.

## Notorious criminal slapped PSA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: In order to curb the criminal activities in the district, Udhampur Police under the overall supervision of SSP Udhampur Joginder Singh, JKPS has detained and lodged in jail notorious criminal Vidya Sagar, son of Diwan Chand, resident of Bindla Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA).

The notorious criminal Vidya Sagar has been involved in a number of criminal cases registered against him at Police Stations of district Udhampur viz. PS Ramnagar and P/S Udhampur. His criminal activities have posed a serious threat to public peace and tranquillity.

Following his repeated engagement in criminal activities, detention order was issued by the District Magistrate Udhampur based on detailed dossier prepared by SSP Udhampur. The police team led by ICPD Ghordi under the close supervision of SDPO Ramnagar and SHO PS Ramnagar successfully executed the warrant, detained the notorious criminal Vidya Sagar and lodged in kot bhalwal jail Jammu.

This successful operation shows the commitment of Udhampur Police towards ensuring safety of the public and its resolve to counter criminal activities.

## Two narco smugglers nabbed with heroin worth more than 60 lakh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse under Ops SANJEEVANI, Jammu Police achieved major success by recovering 169 grams of heroin from two drug peddlers in the area under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bus Stand Jammu.

Bus Stand Jammu Police led by Inspector Vikas Dogra SHO Police Station Bus Stand under the close Supervision of Devinder Singh Bandral SDPO City North Jammu and over all Supervision of Shivam Siddhartha, Superintendent of Police City North Jammu apprehended two drug peddlers during a naka checking near Town Hall Road under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bus Stand Jammu and recovered 169 grams Heroin from their possession.

They were identified as Majid Chowdhary, son of Mohd. Aslam, resident of Chowdhary Nar Rajouri and Mohd Waqar, son of Nazir Hussain, resident of Dhanore Rajouri. In this regard, a case FIR No. 21/2024 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bus Stand Jammu and investigation started.