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CPI inflation rises to 8-month high of 6.07% in February 2022

Synopsis

The retail inflation rate in India - measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI)- came in at 6.07% in February 2022, as per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday.



CPI inflation rises to 6.07% in Feb from 6.01% in Jan

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the reading had risen to 6.01%.

The <u>retail inflation</u> rate in India measured by the <u>Consumer</u> Price Index (<u>CPI</u>)- came in at 6.07% in February 2022, as per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday.

A Reuters poll of 36 economists had forecast that the reading had likely slipped to 5.93% in February on an annual basis.

The retail inflation reading has once again breached the upper limit of the Reserve Bank of India's (**RBI**) Monetary Policy Committee (**MPC**), the second time since June 2021. In January 2022,

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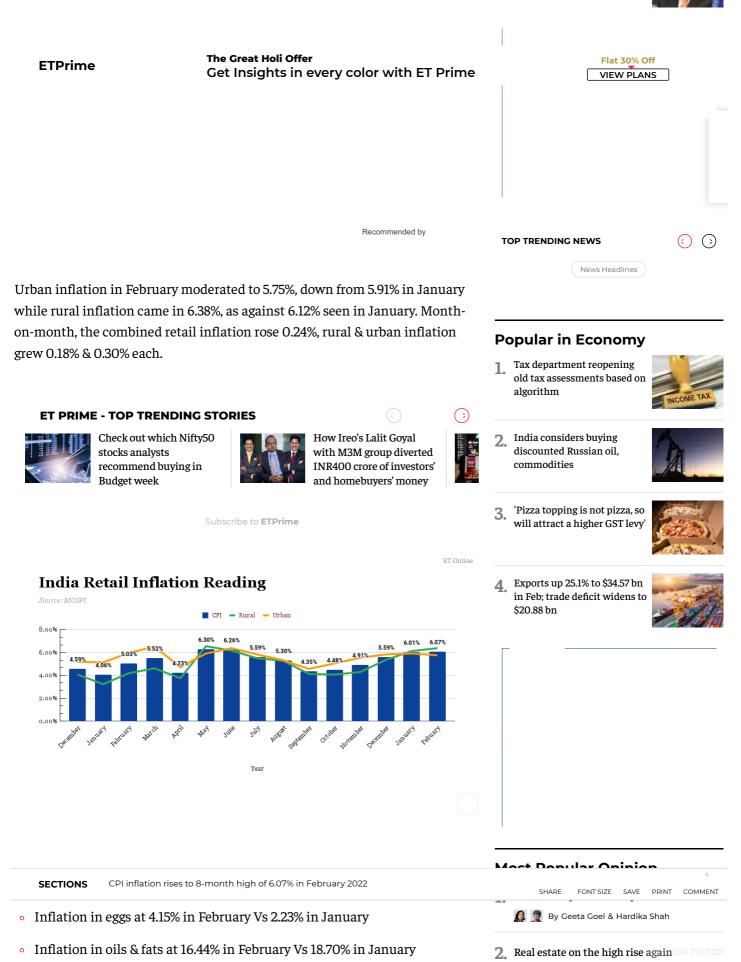


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Synopsis

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Price Index (WPI), spiked to 13.11% year-on-year in February, 11th straight double-digit reading.

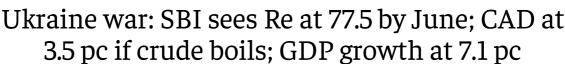
On this, ratings & advisory firm CareEdge opined "With geopolitical tensions far from providing any respite, the resultant disruptions in global supply chains, rising freight costs and an increase in international commodity prices are expected to keep wholesale price pressures elevated at double-digit levels for the remaining fiscal. However, a favourable base could pull down the overall WPI inflation to some extent in the coming months."

It may be noted that while the RBI's policy target is more CPI-centric, a higher WPI inflation reading may be seen as a precursor to higher consumer prices. This is because producers may eventually pass on the uptick in costs to consumers.

Analysts are wary of how the ongoing geopolitical strife in Europe would impact the accelerating retail inflation, especially considering the fact that India fulfills its crude needs over 80% via imports and how the volatile market may have an overarching impact on prices of consumer goods.

RBI now finds itself in a tricky situation where it would want to increase the rates to curb the spiking inflation but at the same time a war-like situation globally is likely to slow down real economic growth.

In Video: CPI inflation rises to 6.07% in Feb fre **Jan** NEXT STORY



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