

DAILY PT POINTERS

4 September, 2024



The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 1

World Bank hikes India's economic growth projection to 7% for FY 2024-25

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

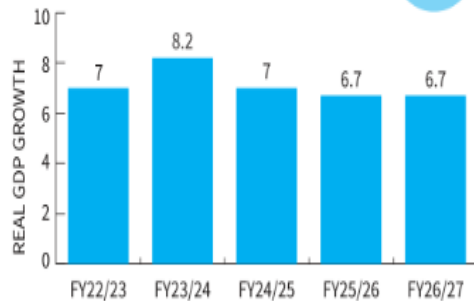
The World Bank has forecast a growth of 7% for the Indian economy for the current fiscal year, upping its earlier estimate of 6.6%.

In its report, 'India Development Update: India's Trade Opportunities in a Changing Global Context', released on Tuesday, the World Bank said India's growth continued to be strong despite a challenging global environment.

The World Bank growth projection is in line with those of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Both institutions have raised their forecast

Growth forecast

World Bank forecasts India's GDP growth will quicken to 7% in FY25 and remain strong in FY26 and FY27



to 7% for the financial year ending March 2025.

"The India Development Update [IDU] observes that India remained the fastest-growing major economy and grew at a rapid clip of 8.2% in FY 23/24. Growth was boosted by

public infrastructure investment and an upswing in household investments in real estate. On the supply side, it was supported by a buoyant manufacturing sector, which grew by 9.9%, and resilient services activity, which compensat-

ed for underperformance in agriculture," the World Bank said in a statement.

Reflecting these trends, urban unemployment has improved gradually since the pandemic, especially for female workers, it said. While female urban unemployment fell to 8.5% in early FY24/25, urban youth unemployment remained elevated at 17%.

India's robust growth prospects, along with declining inflation rate will help to reduce extreme poverty, World Bank's country director in India Auguste Tano Kouame said at a press conference here.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 12

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The Hindu –Defence(GSIII)-Page 14

Centre gives nod to defence proposals worth ₹1.44 lakh cr.

DAC grants approval for procurement of seven stealth frigates, future-ready combat vehicles to replace the main battle tanks, air defence fire control radars, Dornier aircraft, and patrol vessels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), the preliminary step of the long procurement process, for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to ₹1,44,716 crore.

These include procurement of seven stealth frigates under Project-17B, future-ready combat vehicles (FRCV) for the Army as a replacement for the main battle tanks, air defence fire control radars (FCR), Dornier-228 aircraft, next-generation fast patrol and offshore patrol vessels.

Of the total cost of AoNs, 99% is from indigenous sources under Buy (Indian) and Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) categories of the defence acquisition procedure, the



The new acquisition will enhance the capability of the ICG to carry out surveillance, and patrolling of maritime zone. FILE PHOTO

"The FRCV will be a futuristic Main Battle Tank with superior mobility, all terrain ability, multi-layered protections, precision & lethal fires over and real-time situational awareness," the Ministry said in a statement.

There have been earlier attempts at the FRCV project which did not take off and was eventually scrapped. This is a long-drawn project to replace the large number of T72 and T90 main battle tanks

will detect and track aerial targets and provide firing solution.

"The proposal has also been approved for Forward Repair Team (Tracked) which has suitable cross country mobility for carrying out in-situ repair during mechanised operations," the statement said, and this equipment is designed and developed by Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, for both mechanised infantry battalions and armoured regiments.

Defence sources confirmed that the DAC has accorded AoN for construction of seven advanced stealth frigates under Project-17B with public sector defence yards Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in the fray for their construction. In the past too, orders had been split between the two shipyards.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu –Species(GSIII)-Page 20

BIG SHOT



Gustavo Bello, an oceanographer at the Federal University of Rio Grande, holds a green sea turtle in Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro on August 29. These turtles are regaining their health after struggling for years with a disease that hampered their movement and sight and ultimately led to their deaths. Scientists said the revival comes after authorities cleaned up the water. REUTERS

- The green turtle is one of the largest sea turtles and the only herbivore among the different species. Green turtles are in fact named for the greenish color of their cartilage and fat, not their shells.
- In the Eastern Pacific, a group of green turtles that have darker shells are called black turtles by the local community. Green turtles are found mainly in tropical and subtropical waters.
- Like other sea turtles, they migrate long distances between feeding grounds and the beaches from where they hatched. Classified as endangered, green turtles are threatened by overharvesting of their eggs, hunting of adults, being caught in fishing gear and loss of nesting beach sites.

Indian Express –IR(GSII)-Page 5

FIRST BILATERAL VISIT BY AN INDIAN PM TO THE ISLAND COUNTRY

Amid South China Sea tensions, PM in Brunei to discuss defence ties

Will hold talks with Sultan today, later head to Singapore

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

AT A time when China's aggressive posture in the Indo-Pacific, including the South China Sea where Brunei has a maritime claim, is rattling the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached the sultanate's capital Bandar Seri Begawan Tuesday to hold bilateral talks with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Thursday on a range of issues – from commercial to cultural to defence ties.

Officials said a working group on defence is also being explored. This is the first bilateral visit to Brunei by an Indian Prime Minister.

Modi said he was looking forward to his meetings with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and other



PM Narendra Modi was received by Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah upon his arrival in Brunei Darussalam. PTI

for welcoming me at the airport," he said in a post on X.

In his departure statement earlier in the day, Modi said he was embarking on a first-ever bilateral visit to Brunei Darussalam.

"As we celebrate the 40 years of our diplomatic relations, I look forward to my meetings with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and other esteemed members of the royal family to advance our historical relationship to new heights," he said

to India so far – State visits to India in 1992 and 2008, and also attended the ASEAN-India commemorative summits in 2012 and 2018. On the last visit, he was also Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade along with other ASEAN leaders.

Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "The Prime Minister will engage in bilateral discussions on all aspects of our bilateral relations and cooperation with Brunei and also explore

EXPLAINED
E Role in ISRO launches

OTHER THAN naval ties, Brunei plays a role in the Indian space programme. India established a Telemetry, Tracking and Command station in Brunei in 2000 which tracks and monitors eastward launches of Indian satellites and satellite launch vehicles.

people exchanges."

The Indian diaspora in Brunei is about 14,000 and they comprise a substantial number of doctors and teachers who, he said, have earned goodwill and respect for their contributions to Brunei's economy and society.

"We have received valuable support from Brunei in our space programme. We have three MoUs with Brunei in this area. We established a Telemetry

station in 2016, and has since been renewed in 2021. It provides a framework for our collaboration that covers regular exchanges at high levels, Naval and Coast Guard ship exchange visits, training and joint exercises and participation in each other's exhibitions. We are also working towards establishing a joint working group for cooperation in the area of defence," Mazumdar said.

There have been regular visits by Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships – ICGS Sagar in March 2014; INS Shakti in August 2014; INS Airavat in May 2016; INS Satpura in November 2017; ICGS Shaunak in January 2019.

INS Jalashwa visited Brunei in May 2021 to bring back Covid relief donated by the Indian diaspora. INS Shivalik and INS Kadmatt visited Muara Port in August 2021 for PASSEX with Brunei. Bruneian ship KDI Darulaman participated in MILAN 2012 (Andamans); and Royal Brunei Navy's Ship KP 80 Daruttanaz visited Mumbai in

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan on an official visit at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.
- Brunei is an important partner in India's 'Act East' Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision.
- In 2014, the policy was revived as 'Act East', imploring greater action towards solidifying those ties. PM Modi has said the 10-member grouping ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was the "central pillar" of India's Act East Policy. Brunei is also an ASEAN member.
- Other than naval ties, Brunei plays a role in the Indian space programme. India established a Telemetry, Tracking and Command station in Brunei in 2000 which tracks and monitors eastward launches of Indian satellites and satellite launch vehicles.

Indian Express-(Miscellaneous)-Page 7

Padma award nominations to be accepted until Sept 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

THE UNION Home Ministry on Tuesday announced that the ongoing online process for nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards 2025 will conclude on September 15.

Anyone can make nominations and recommendations, including self-nomination. "For the Padma Awards 2025, to be announced on Republic Day, 2025, nominations or recommendations began on May 1, 2024. The last date for nominations for the awards is September 15, 2024," the Ministry said in a statement.

The nominations or recommendations, which started in May this year, will only be received on the Rashtriya Puraskar portal (<https://awards.gov.in>). Instituted in 1954, the awards — Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri — are amongst the highest civilian ho-

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- The awards seek to recognise "work of distinction", and are given for distinguished and exceptional achievements and service in all fields and disciplines such as art, literature and education, sports, medicine, social work, science and engineering, public affairs, civil service, trade and industry among others.
- All persons without the distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for the awards. Government servants including those working with public sector undertakings (PSUs), except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for them.

PIB-IR(GSII)

Ministry of Defence

India and Kenya holds 3rd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting

Posted On: 03 SEP 2024 5:05PM by PIB Delhi

The third edition of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Kenya was held in New Delhi on September 3, 2024. The two countries discussed a wide range of avenues for defence cooperation in areas like military cooperation, training, defence industries, R&D etc.

The Kenyan delegation has met Indian defence industry representatives in Delhi. The delegation is also slated to visit Pune where they would interact with representatives of defence industries to get first-hand experience of their capabilities.

India shares a longstanding, friendly and close relationship with Kenya. The MoU on Defence Cooperation signed in July 2016 has provided a legal framework to cooperate in various areas of defence for mutual benefit.

JDCC is an ideal platform to discuss the defence cooperation issues at length and make an effective roadmap to further the defence ties between the two countries. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad and the Kenyan side by Major General David Kipkemboi Ketter.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Health(GSII)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

“VISHANU YUDDH ABHYAS”: A Mock Drill on Pandemic Preparedness conducted under National One Health Mission

Exercise aimed to evaluate the readiness and response of the National Joint Outbreak Response Team composed of experts from human health, animal husbandry and wildlife sectors

First of its kind exercise under One Health Mission: Union Minister Shri J P Nadda

Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas provided valuable insights to inform future strategies to enhance India's preparedness and response to zoonotic disease outbreaks

Posted On: 03 SEP 2024 6:04PM by PIB Delhi

- Under the aegis of National One Health Mission (NOHM), a comprehensive national mock drill, "Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas" (Virus War Exercise), was conducted in Ajmer district of Rajasthan state, from August 27 to August 31, 2024 to assess pandemic preparedness. This exercise aimed to evaluate the readiness and response of the National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) composed of experts from human health, animal husbandry and wildlife sectors. A mock zoonotic disease outbreak scenario was created to simulate a real-world outbreak.
- The drill was structured around two key components: a) Investigation and identification of the virus responsible for the mock outbreak; and b) Actions initiated to control the spread of illness across human and animal populations. Independent observers monitored the response. The response of the district and state teams, directed by NJORT was found to be mostly prompt and appropriate. The exercise also identified some areas requiring further improvement.

Air-IR(GSII)

South Africa Announces TTOS Scheme To Boost Tourism From India



MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To: All Media/News Editors
Media Statement
Issue Date: 2 September 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE USE

HOME AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES TRUSTED TOUR OPERATOR SCHEME (TTOS) TO BOOST TOURISM FROM CHINA AND INDIA

In a critical step to reform the visa system and position the Department as an economic enabler by supercharging job creation in the tourism sector, Home Affairs today announces the creation of an innovative new Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS), set to be implemented from January 2025.

With an initial focus on the burgeoning tourist markets of China and India, the TTOS will remove some of the key obstacles standing in the way of South Africa becoming a favoured tourism destination for the second and fifth largest economies in the world. Chinese tourists made over 100 million outbound trips in 2023, with South Africa receiving a minuscule 93,000 of these arrivals. In comparison, a country like Australia attracted over 1.4 million visitors from China in 2023. At the moment, Indian tourists account for only 3.9% of all international visitors to South Africa – and China for only 1.8%.

In collaboration with the Department of Tourism, as well as the Presidency and Operation Vulindlela, the Department of Home Affairs has resolved to play our role in rectifying this unacceptable economic underperformance by urgently clearing obstacles to tourism from these two major source-markets. After seeing the positive impact made by the Trusted Employer Scheme (TES), which provides swift and simplified visa processing services to vetted and approved businesses to attract critical skills, Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber directed that the same principle be applied

to the very first time process group applications from Chinese and Indian tourists travelling with approved operators. Tourist visa applications processed through TTOS will be handled by a dedicated and skilled team of adjudicators to ensure swift and reliable processing, and will also benefit from the removal of restrictive red tape that currently suffocates South Africa's tourism potential.

"I am particularly pleased that we are able to make this announcement during the President's state visit to China, as it sends a powerful message that the Government of National Unity is serious about unlocking our country's vast tourism and economic potential," said Minister Schreiber. "Research indicates that boosting tourism by only 10% per year can boost annual economic growth by 0.6% and create tens of thousands of new jobs for South Africans. Traveling in large groups is the preferred option for many tourists from some countries and it is time for our visa system to adapt in order to reflect and capitalise on this reality."

Minister Schreiber added: "This is only the start of Home Affairs' embrace of our role as an economic enabler. Exciting as it is, TTOS is itself but an interim measure to boost tourism while we move with speed to digitally transform Home Affairs. Ultimately, our vision is for a fully automated process that delivers secure tourist visa outcomes digitally and within seconds to tourists from around the world."

The regulations for the TTOS will be published shortly, as well as information on how tour operators can apply with the Department of Home Affairs ahead of the scheme's rollout in January 2025.

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ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- South Africa has announced a new Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) with an initial focus on the tourist markets of India and China.
- The Country's Home Affairs Department said that the scheme is set to be implemented from January next year. The aim of the scheme is to reform the visa system and is expected to increase jobs in the tourism sector. The TTOS will remove the key obstacles standing in the way of South Africa becoming a favoured tourism destination for the second and fifth largest economies in the world. According to the government, Indian tourists account for only 3.9 percent of all international visitors to South Africa.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)

India Achieves 40th Rank In 2023 Edition Of Global Innovation Index



- India has achieved 40th rank among 132 economies globally in the 2023 edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- India is part of the group of countries that has climbed the GII rankings fastest over the last decade.
- As per the report, India has also been making the most headway in innovation over the last decade. India has emerged as a Regional GII leader as it performed above expectations on innovation relative to the level of economic development. It continues to adhere to the record of being an innovation over-performers for the 13th consecutive year.
- Global Innovation Index 2023 captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.