

DAILY PT POINTERS

1st October, 2024



The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 1

Core sector output tanks for the first time in 42 months



Source: CMIE

Vikas Dhoot

NEW DELHI

Output levels in India's core sectors slipped to a nine-month low in August, even as year-on-year growth slipped 1.8%, marking the first contraction in three and a half years.

Six of eight infrastructure segments witnessed a year-on-year contraction in production, while fertilizers and steel output grew at a milder pace than July,

when core sectors' output rose 6.1%. The 4.5% uptick in steel production was the slowest in 26 months.

In absolute terms, electricity generation was at a five-month low in August, while refinery products were at a six-month low. Coal and electricity output recorded their first contraction in at least 13 months.

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- The eight core industries' output declined 1.8 per cent in August 2024, weighed down by an adverse base effect. This is the first instance of contraction in output at an aggregate level since February 2021 and after a gap of 41 months.
- In July this year, core industries had recorded 6.1 per cent growth and in August last year, the aggregate output growth was 13.4 per cent.
- Six of the eight core industries were in negative territory for the month under review. The sectors that showed positive growth in August 2024 are fertilizers and steel.
- In August 2024, coal sector output contracted 8.1 per cent (17.9 per cent growth in August 2023); crude oil contracted 3.4 per cent (2.2 per cent growth); Natural gas contracted 3.6 per cent (10 per cent growth); refinery products contracted 1 per cent (growth of 9.5 per cent); cement contracted 3 per cent (19.7 per cent growth) and electricity contracted 5 per cent (growth of 15.3 per cent).

The Hindu-Governance(GSII)Internal Security(GSIII)-

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Manipur government extends AFSPA in hill districts for 6 months

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Manipur government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the hill districts of the State for another six months, a September 26 notification said.

Effective October 1, the provisions of the Act will be extended to the whole State, except 19 police station limits in seven valley districts, thus maintaining the *status quo*, since three such notifications were passed since March 2023.

Valley areas exempted

The notification said the "Governor of Manipur is of the opinion that the violent activities of various extremist/insurgent groups warrant the use of Armed Forces in aid of civil administration in the entire State of Manipur except the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the 19 police stations under Imphal, Lamphel, City, Singjamei, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsol, Wangol, Porompat, Heingang, Lambai, Irilbung, Leimakhong, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Nambol, Moirang, Kakching and Jiribam."

It added that the "disturbed area" status could

Provisions of Act will cover whole State, except for 19 police station limits in seven valley districts

not be reviewed and a detailed ground assessment could not be done as "the sister security agencies are preoccupied with maintenance of law and order" and "it will be premature to arrive at any conclusion or decision on such sensitive matter without detailed assessment."

The 1958 law gives power to the Army and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to arrest or kill anyone acting in contravention of law, search any premises without a warrant, and grant them protection from prosecution and legal suits without the Union government's sanction.

Both the State and Centre can issue notification regarding AFSPA. Currently, the Ministry of Home Affairs issues "disturbed area" notifications only for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The notification for Manipur and Assam are issued by the State governments.

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The Hindu --Page 12-Miscellaneous

Mithun Chakraborty to get Dadasaheb Phalke Award

It will be presented to the veteran actor during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on Oct. 8, says Vaishnaw; Prime Minister Modi calls him a 'cultural icon', who is admired across generations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty was on Monday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema, for the year 2022. It will be presented during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw made the announcement on X.

The Minister said Mr. Chakraborty's journey from a young man with humble beginnings to a celebrated film icon embodied the spirit of hope and perseverance, proving that, with passion and dedication, one can achieve even the most ambitious dreams. His dedication and hard work have made him a role model for aspiring actors and artists, he said.

Congratulating Mr. Chakraborty, who is also a



Mithun Chakraborty has acted in more than 350 films across various Indian languages, giving diverse performances. ANI

member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the actor was a "cultural icon" admired across generations.

"Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognising his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

Mr. Chakraborty bagged the National Film Award

for Best Actor in his first film, *Mrigayaa* (1976). An alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India, Mr. Chakraborty's portrayal of a Santal rebel in the film by Mrinal Sen earned him national accolade.

He gained significant popularity in the 1980s with his role in *Disco Dancer* (1982), a film that became a major success both in India and internationally, establishing him as a dancing sensation.

His performance in *Agneepath* also won him the

Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1990.

Later, he won two more National Film Awards for his work in *Tabaar Katha* (1992) and *Swami Vivekananda* (1998).

"Over his extensive career, Mithun has acted in more than 350 films across various Indian languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Odia, Bhojpuri, and Telugu. He is known for his diverse performances, ranging from action to drama and comedy, and has won several awards," the Ministry said.

"The Union Minister emphasised that Mithun Da is not only celebrated for his cinematic achievements but also for his dedication to social causes. He has been actively involved in various charitable initiatives aimed at education, healthcare, and supporting underprivileged communities, reflecting his commitment to giving back to society," it said.

He was recently conferred the Padma Bhushan

- Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty was on Monday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema, for the year 2022. It will be presented during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8.
- The Award was constituted in 1969, to commemorate the contribution of filmmaker Dadasaheb Phalke to Indian cinema. Phalke directed India's first full-length feature film, *Raja Harishchandra*, in 1913, laying the foundation of the biggest film industry in the world.

The Hindu –Economy(GSIII)-Page13

Trade deficit widens India's Q1FY25 CAD to \$9.7 billion

Private transfer receipts, mainly remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose to \$29.5 billion from \$27.1 billion while net FDI inflows climbed to \$6.3 billion from \$4.7 billion, RBI data shows

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened marginally to \$9.7 billion (1.1% of GDP) in Q1 FY25 from \$8.9 billion (1% of GDP) in the year-earlier period and a surplus of \$4.6 billion (0.5% of GDP) in Q4FY24, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

"The widening of CAD on a year-on-year basis was primarily due to a rise in merchandise trade deficit to \$65.1 billion in Q12024-25 from \$56.7 billion in Q12023-24," the RBI said.

Yawning chasm

Merchandise trade deficit widened to \$65.1 bn in Q1 FY25 from \$56.7 bn on a rise in oil, gold and other imports



- Net inflows via foreign portfolio investments moderated to \$0.9 billion from \$15.7 billion

- Net inflows under ECB amounted to \$1.8 billion in Q1 FY25 against \$5.6 billion in Q1 last year

- NRI deposits recorded net inflows of \$4 billion, higher than \$2.2 billion in Q1 last year

rose to \$39.7 billion in Q12024-25 from \$35.1 billion.

Private transfer receipts, mainly represent-

employed overseas, rose to \$29.5 billion in Q12024-25 from \$27.1 billion.

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows climbed

from \$4.7 billion.

"India's balance of payments situation remained largely stable for Q1FY25 with net accretion of \$5.2 billion to forex reserves compared with \$24.4 billion last year," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda.

Stating CAD was marginally higher at 1.1% against 1% of GDP last year, he said "we may expect the deficit to be around 1.5% for the year. FDI flows were higher though FPI was lower. The latter will turnaround given the debt flows expected due to the inclusion of bonds in IDMs in Jan"

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- Current account deficit (CAD) mirrors the saving-investment gap in the national income accounts and thus constitutes foreign savings. The challenge before the emerging market economies is to leverage foreign savings to promote domestic growth without having the longterm consequences of external payment imbalances. However, current account deficits, per se, need not necessarily enhance the productive capacity and thus overall GDP growth. This would depend on underlying component factors leading to the current account deficit.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu –Environment(GSIII)-



Heating up: Warmer oceans fuel extreme weather by influencing global weather patterns. AFP

Ocean warming rate nearly doubled since 2005: report

Agence France-Presse
BREST

The pace at which oceans are warming has almost doubled since 2005 as global temperatures rise because of human-caused climate change, a report from the EU monitor Copernicus said on Monday.

The findings by the Copernicus Marine Service underscored the consequences of a warming planet on oceans, which cover 70% of the earth's surface and acts as a major regulator of the climate.

Ocean warming has "increased continuously" since the 1960s but sharply accelerated in the years since 2005.

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- Ocean warming has "increased continuously" since the 1960s but sharply accelerated in the years since 2005,.
- Warmer oceans fuel storms, hurricanes and other extreme weather by influencing global weather patterns and where rainfall lands.
- Copernicus said its report detailed "record-breaking ocean temperatures, marine heatwaves stretching down to the deep ocean, unprecedented sea ice loss and rising levels of heat stored in the ocean".It said in 2023, more than 20 percent of the world's oceans experienced at least one severe to extreme marine heatwave, events that have ripple effects for marine life and fisheries.

Indian Express –Economy(GSIII)-Page 1

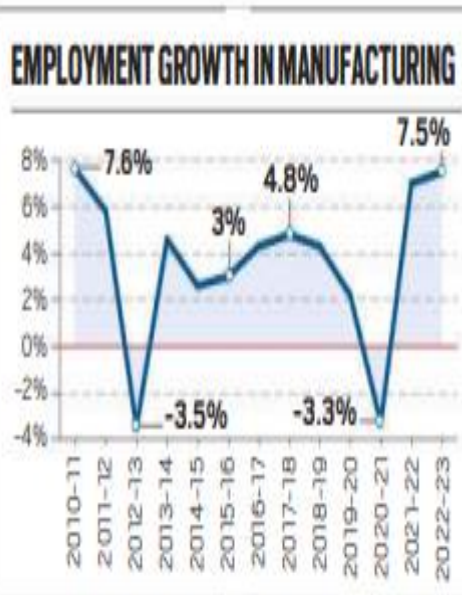
CAPEX TOPPED PRE-COVID LEVELS ON FOOD, TEXTILES REBOUND

Survey: Manufacturing industries' job growth at 12-year high in FY23

AGGAM WALIA &
AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

THE ANNUAL Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-23, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Monday, showed that the total number of employees in manufacturing industries increased by 7.5 per cent to 1.84 crore in 2022-23 from 1.72 crore in 2021-22.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



- The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-23, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), showed that the total number of employees in manufacturing industries increased by 7.5 per cent to 1.84 crore in 2022-23 from 1.72 crore in 2021-22.
- This is the highest rate of increase in employment in manufacturing industries in the last 12 years.
- The highest employment was recorded in factories producing food products, followed by textiles, basic metals, wearing apparel and motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, the latest ASI data showed.
- According to the survey, the total number of factories increased from 2.49 lakh in 2021-22 to 2.53 lakh in 2022-23, which was the first year marking the full recovery phase after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indian Express-Environment(GSIII)-Page 1

Indian elephants lost genetic vigour as they moved north to south, 5 distinct populations exist: Study

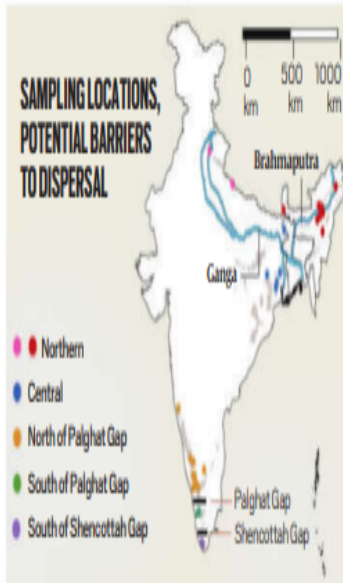
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ANCHOR

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

A TEAM of researchers from the Bengaluru-based National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has found that the Indian elephant migrated from the north to the south over many millennia and lost their genetic diversity progressively with each southward migration.

Published in the latest issue of *Current Biology*, the study analysed whole genome sequences from captive and wild elephant blood samples collected across India to identify five genetically distinct populations – one along the Himalayan foothills from the northwest to northeast, one in central India, and three in the south.

According to the last national census conducted in 2017, India is home to more than 29,000 elephants. While the three southern populations added up to 14,500 elephants, the central population was estimated at



over 3,000. The northern population accounted for the remaining 12,000 – around 2,000 in the northwest and 10,000 in the northeast.

As evidence for Indian elephants migrating from the north to the south, the study – titled 'Divergence and serial colonization shape genetic variation and define conservation units in Asian elephants' – found that the northern elephant population diverged from all other Indian populations more than 70,000 years ago.

Indicating further southward migration. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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- According to the last national census conducted in 2017, India is home to more than 29,000 elephants.
- There are three species of elephant: **African Savanna (Bush), African Forest and Asian**



ANIMALIA - MAMMALIA

GLOBAL

African Forest Elephant

Loxodonta cyclotis

↓ Decreasing



ANIMALIA - MAMMALIA

GLOBAL

Asian Elephant

Elephas maximus

↓ Decreasing



ANIMALIA - MAMMALIA

GLOBAL

African Savanna Elephant

Loxodonta africana

↓ Decreasing



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EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHY A 'SUICIDE POD' IS UNDER LEGAL SCRUTINY IN SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND POLICE last week said that it had opened a criminal case and arrested at least four people in connection with the suspected death of a 64-year-old American woman in a "suicide capsule".

The so-called Sarco pod — from 'sarcophagus', stone coffins used to bury ancient royalty in Egypt, Greece, and Rome — was engineered by Philip Nitschke, an Australian physician who founded the pro-euthanasia group Exit International.

What is euthanasia? How is it different from assisted dying?

Both are ways in which a person can end their life. Euthanasia involves a physician administering a lethal drug to a patient who might be suffering from a terminal or debilitating illness.

Assisted dying, on the other hand, relies on self-administration of the lethal substance, with medical involvement restricted only to the drug's procurement. It is not necessarily linked to terminal illness.

What is the Sarco pod?

The Sarco pod is an air-tight, 3D-printed capsule which is placed on a stand with a canister of liquid nitrogen. A person inside the capsule can press a button



Sarco pods cost around 15,000 euros per use. *Exit International*

time later," he wrote.

What does Swiss law say?

Although active euthanasia is banned in Switzerland, assisted dying and assisted suicide are legal as long as an individual ends their life without any "external assistance", and those who help them do not have "any self-serving motive". These laws have made Switzerland a destination for "death tourism", which sees people head to the country to end their lives.

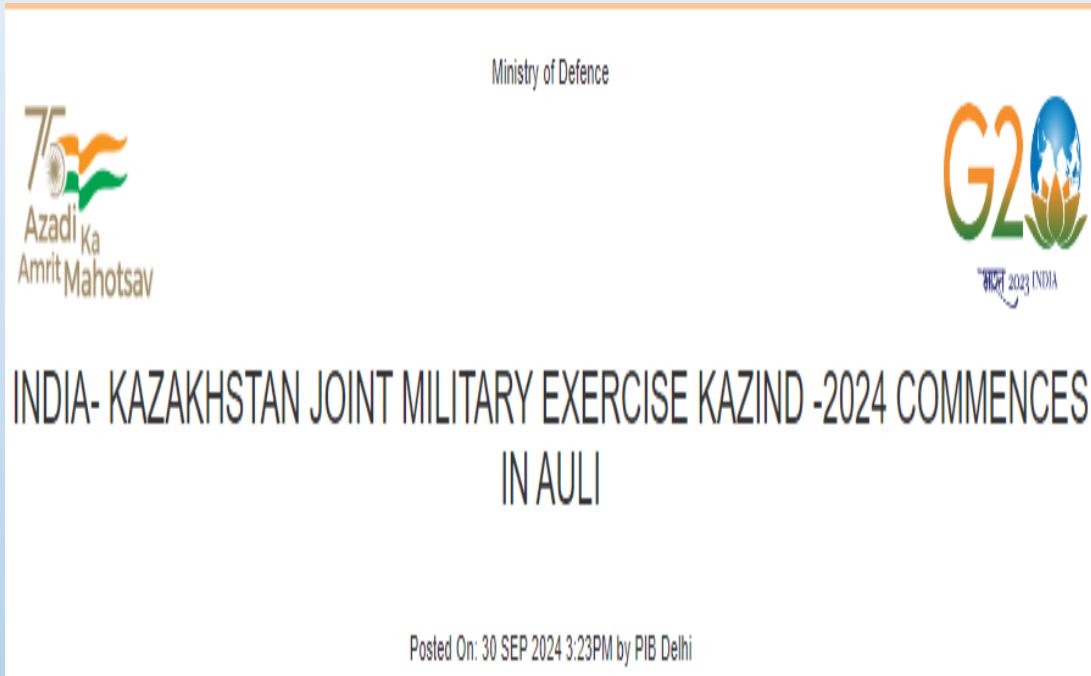
However, critics say that the Sarco pod exploits a legal loophole. Interior Minister Elisabeth Baume-Schneider

- Switzerland police arrested at least four persons recently for their involvement in the death of a 64-year-old American woman by a 'suicide pod' on September 23
- Named after sarcophagus, the stone coffin used to bury ancient royalty, the Sarco is a coffin-sized, air-tight machine designed by Exit International.
- First made in 2019, the Sarco pod consists of a 3D-printed detachable capsule placed on a stand with a canister of liquid nitrogen. A person lying inside it could press a button to initiate the dying process, flooding the air inside it with nitrogen gas.
- The device was designed and built in the Netherlands by Nitschke and Dutch engineer Alex Bannink over 12 years and cost around €650,000 (\$725,000) to research and develop. Future pods are estimated to cost around €15,000 and to be reusable.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Defense(GSIII)



The 8th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024 commenced today, at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 30th September to 13th October 2024. Joint Exercise KAZIND-2024 has been held annually since 2016. Last edition of the Joint Exercise was held at Otar, Kazakhstan from 30th October to 11th November 2023.

- Key objectives include improving physical fitness, refining tactical drills, and sharing best practices. Tactical exercises will cover responses to terrorist actions, establishment of joint command posts, securing helipads, and utilizing drones. The exercise aims to foster interoperability, camaraderie, and enhanced defense cooperation between the two nations.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Science & Technology(GSIII)



- BharatGen, a pioneering initiative in generative AI designed to revolutionize public service delivery and boost citizen engagement through developing a suite of foundational models in language, speech and computer vision, was inaugurated in the virtual presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, today in New Delhi.
- “BharatGen is a proud example of India's commitment to advancing homegrown technologies. It positions India as a global leader in the field of Generative AI, much like our achievements with UPI and other innovations that have transformed various sectors,” said Dr Jitendra Singh during the inauguration.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy(GSIII)



- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' from the Mumbai port. Aimed at boosting the tremendous potential of cruise tourism in the country, the programme by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways aims to propel country's cruise tourism industry by doubling cruise passenger traffic within five years; i.e. by 2029
- The initiative aims to excel India's vision to become a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination. The Cruise India Mission will be implemented in three phases, beginning from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air: Defence(GSIII)

Indian Army Signs 8th Procurement Contract Under IDEX Initiative



- The Indian Army signed the eighth procurement contract through the government's flagship initiative Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) in New Delhi today. The Ministry of Defence said that the contract for procurement of Generation of Quantum Secure Key (Quantum Key Distribution) was signed with QuNu Labs in the presence of Vice Chief of the Army Staff Lieutenant General NC Raja Subramani. This contract will replace the algorithm-based encryption systems thus enabling greater security and also optimising manpower commitment.
- iDEX aimed to create an eco-system to foster innovations and encourage technological development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Research and Development Institutes, Academia, and Industries including MSMEs, Start-Ups, and individual innovators.