

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu : _GS 3/Economy–Page-1

Economy likely to grow by 6.5% to 7% this year: Survey

The document, released on the eve of Budget, says that the economy has broadly caught up with pre-COVID growth trends; it stresses need to address inequality, unemployment as policy priority

Going strong, concerns remain

While the 2024 Economic Survey said the economy is resilient, it warned about widening inequality and the need to add lakhs of jobs annually

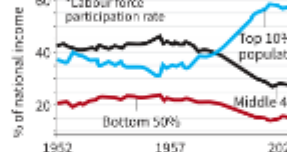
Consistent growth

Real GDP grew by 8.2% in FY24, posting growth in excess of 7% for a third year



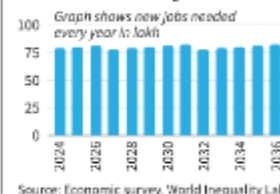
Widening inequality

Informal sector integration and expansion of female LFPR* in focus to address inequality



Quantum of new jobs needed

India needs to generate nearly 78.5 lakh jobs annually until 2038 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce



Source: Economic survey, World Inequality Lab

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Indian economy has broadly caught up with pre-COVID growth trends, averting any permanent scarring, and is likely to grow by 6.5% to 7% this year with prospects of clocking 7% plus growth in coming years, as per the Economic Survey for 2023-24 that also drew attention to the need to address inequality and unemployment as a policy priority.

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswa-

ran, the lead author of the Survey, made a pitch for the Union and State governments to let go of their myriad regulatory powers to ease the burden on businesses. He also prodded the corporate sector, "swimming in excess profits", to take responsibility of generating productive jobs in its own "enlightened self-interest".

Noting that IT sector hiring has slowed significantly in the last two years, the CEA urged Indian industry to think harder about how AI can augment labour rather than displace work-

ers and wrote: "Deploying capital-intensive and energy-intensive AI is probably one of the last things a growing, lower-middle-income economy needs."

Skilling initiatives

The authors of the Survey, which was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Monday, mooted steps to tackle inequality, improve the young population's health in the short to medium term, and bridge the education-employment gap. They also sought a reboot of skilling

initiatives to help the industry find people with the "right attitude and skills".

The corporates benefit from the higher demand generated by employment and income growth, while the financial sector benefits from channelling household savings for investment purposes, but "short-termism" can weaken these linkages, the CEA sought to convey to the industry.

CONTINUED ON

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MORE REPORTS

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- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2023-24, along with the statistical appendix in the Lok Sabha.
- The Economic Survey is an annual document presented by the government ahead of the Union Budget to review the state of the economy. It provides an overview of the short-to-medium-term prospects of the economy.
- The Economic Survey is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance under the supervision of the chief economic adviser.

Highlights : Economic Survey conservatively projects a real GDP growth of 6.5–7 per cent, with risks evenly balanced, cognizant of the fact that the market expectations are on the higher side.

India's economy carried forward the momentum it built in FY23 into FY24 despite a gamut of external challenges. The focus on maintaining macroeconomic stability ensured that external challenges had minimal impact on India's economy. India's real GDP grew by 8.2 per cent in FY24, exceeding 8 per cent mark in three out of four quarters of FY24.

The Hindu :GS2-IR(Page -8)

How and when can a bill be defined as a money Bill?

Why do money Bills have a special procedure for approval? What is the way forward?

Rangarajan.R

The story so far:

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) has agreed to list before Constitution Benches, the petitions challenging the money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious laws/amendments.

What are money and financial Bills?

The Constitution defines certain categories of bills that deal with financial matters as money Bills and financial Bills. Article 110(1)(a) to (f) defines a money Bill as a bill that contains 'only' provisions dealing with one or more of six specific matters. They relate to taxation; borrowing by government; custody of consolidated fund or contingency fund

Clause (g) of Article 110 (1) provides that any matter incidental to these six matters can also be classified as a money Bill. Classic examples of money Bills include the Finance Act and the Appropriation Act that deal primarily 'only' with taxation and spending out of the consolidated fund respectively. Article 117 provides for two different categories of financial Bills. Category I contains any of the six matters mentioned in Article 110(1)(a) to (f) along with any other matter. Category II Bills do not contain any of those six matters but would involve expenditures from the consolidated fund.

What is procedure for a money Bill?

As per Article 109, a money Bill shall be introduced only in the Lok Sabha. After it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya

Constitution provides for this special procedure that effectively requires only the approval of Lok Sabha where the ruling government enjoys a majority. It has its origin in the U.K., where in 1911 the powers of the unelected House of Lords over the Budget were curtailed. The Budget was required to be passed only by the House of Commons that reflected the will of the people. However, it must be noted that the operative word of the definition of a money Bill is the word 'only'. It is the Speaker of Lok Sabha who certifies a Bill to be a money Bill.

Financial Bills of Category I and II do not enjoy this special procedure.

What are the issues?

Certification of a Bill as a 'money Bill' by the Speaker came under judicial review

for offences under the Act. Section 7 of the Act provides that the Central or State government may require Aadhaar authentication of an individual as a condition for providing subsidy, benefit or service, for which expenditure is incurred from the consolidated fund. Stating the withdrawal of funds from the consolidated fund as the primary purpose of the Act, with all other provisions being incidental to it, this law was passed as a 'money Bill'. While this was a debatable classification, the Supreme Court upheld this with a majority of 4:1. The current CJI was the lone dissenting judge who held that the Aadhaar Act did not fulfil the definition of a 'money Bill'.

The Finance Act, 2017 was even more controversial, in passing amendments to various Acts for reorganisation of tribunals such as the National Green Tribunal, as a money Bill. These amendments were struck down in *Rojer Mathew versus South Indian Bank* (2019) wherein a five-judge Bench opined that the Aadhaar case judgment did not substantially discuss the effect of the word 'only' in the definition of money Bill. It referred the matter to a larger Bench for consideration. A seven-judge Bench should be constituted for an authoritative judgment on the definition

THE GIST

▼ The Constitution defines certain categories of bills that deal with financial matters as money Bills and financial Bills. Article 110(1)(a) to (f) defines a money Bill as a bill that contains 'only' provisions dealing with one or more of six specific matters.

▼ Certification of a Bill as a 'money Bill' by the Speaker came under judicial review during the scrutiny of the Aadhaar Act passed in 2016.

▼ A seven-judge Bench should be constituted for an authoritative judgment on the definition of money Bills.

- The Constitution defines certain categories of bills that deal with financial matters as money Bills and financial Bills. Article 110(1)(a) to (f) defines a money Bill as a bill that contains 'only' provisions dealing with one or more of six specific matters.
- They relate to taxation; borrowing by government; custody of consolidated fund or contingency fund and payment/withdrawal of money from such fund; appropriation out of consolidated fund; expenditure charged on consolidated fund; receipt on account of consolidated fund or public account or the audit of accounts of Union or States.
- Clause (g) of Article 110 (1) provides that any matter incidental to these six matters can also be classified as a money Bill.
- Classic examples of money Bills include the Finance Act and the Appropriation Act that deal primarily 'only' with taxation and spending out of the consolidated fund respectively.

The Hindu-IR(GSII)/Environment (GSIII)-Page 12

'Proposed EU Carbon Border Adjustment Tax is protectionist'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Echoing the Centre's concerns on "protectionism", the Economic Survey has noted that the forthcoming Carbon Border Adjustment Tax (CBAT) mooted by the European Union "went against the spirit of the Paris Agreement".

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), as it is called, are tariffs that will apply on energy intensive goods imported into the European Union.

This is to ensure that local manufacturers of iron, steel and aluminium, which consume enormous fossil fuel, are not at a competitive disadvantage from similar goods produced in developing countries whose industries have more permissive fossil fuel emission norms.

"India not only has to deal with climate change and undertake energy transition but also deal with the protectionism of the developed countries. Europe is on course to implement its Carbon Border Adjustment Tax and both the United Kingdom and the United States are in different stages of imposing



India is among the top eight countries that will be adversely affected by the CBAM, say reports. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

their versions of it in due course. These taxes are in contravention to the spirit of the Paris Agreement that recognised 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities'," the Survey says.

The CBAM is expected to come into force on January 1, 2026. India is among the top eight countries that will be adversely affected by CBAM, as per the Global Trade Research Initiative report. In 2022, 27% of India's exports of iron, steel and aluminium products worth \$8.2 billion went to the EU.

It is estimated that a few of its core sectors, such as steel, will be "greatly affected" by CBAM.

- The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is the EU's tool to put a **fair price on the carbon emitted** during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
- The CBAM will **initially apply to imports of certain goods and selected precursors** whose production is carbon intensive and at most significant risk of carbon leakage: **cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen.**

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu –Health (GSII)

Teenager survives infection from ‘brain-eating’ amoeba

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

A 14-year-old boy from Kozhikode in Kerala has recovered from primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM).

Health Department sources said such recovery was rare as very few people had survived the infection globally. Afnan Jasim was being treated at Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode, from July 1 and was discharged on Monday.

Abdul Rauf, consultant paediatric intensivist, BMH, told *The Hindu* that Jasim exhibited symptoms of the infection on June 30. “We could do the preliminary diagnosis within 24 hours of admitting him. That proved crucial in the treatment. A PCR test con-

Kerala Health Department says very few people had survived the infection globally

firmed the presence of the amoeba later,” said Dr. Rauf. The hospital followed the treatment protocol of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States.

Official sources said Health Minister Veena George had convened a meeting when the first case of PAM was reported in the State this year and issued guidelines for treatment. The staff at the primary health centre at Meladi, where Jasim was taken to initially on July 1, suspect-

ed the possibility of PAM. Jasim was shifted to BMH after he developed seizures.

PAM is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, an amoeba found in warm freshwater lakes, ponds, and rivers. As it can infect the brain and destroy the tissues, it is also called ‘brain-eating amoeba’.

Dr. Rauf claimed that only eight PCR test-confirmed patients had so far recovered from the disease across the world. Jasim’s was the first such case in the country. He was given medicines for eight days and only then did his PCR test turn negative for the amoeba. “Jasim had been under treatment for 21 days. He will have to take medicines for at least one more week,” he said.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express–Welfare Schemes (GSII)-Page 6

15% PMAY-U beneficiaries minorities, says Ministry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A LITTLE over 15% of the beneficiaries who have got houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), so far, come from religious minority communities, according to a reply by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Replying to a question by nominated MP Satnam Singh Sandhu, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State Tokhan Sahu said 118.64 lakh houses had been sanctioned under PMAY-U, which was launched in 2015, based on proposals submitted by states and UTs as of July 15. Out of those, 85.04 lakh houses had been completed or delivered to the beneficiaries.

Of the total sanctioned houses, 15.15% or 16 lakh houses were for beneficiaries of the minority communities, of which 13.45 (12.74%) were Muslim beneficiaries, 1.73 lakh (1.64%) Christians, 49,670 (0.47%) Sikh, 19,707 (0.19%) Buddhist, 10,457 (0.10%) Jains and 1,127 (0.01%) Zoroastrians, Sahu stated in a written reply. The scheme had been extended from 2022 to December 31, 2024 to allow for completion of houses sanctioned till March 31, 2022.

- A little over 15% of the beneficiaries, who have got houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) so far, come from religious minority communities, according to a reply by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- The scheme had been extended from 2022 to December 31, 2024 to allow for completion of houses sanctioned till March 31, 2022.

Indian Express –Defense(GSIII)-Page 9

INS Brahmaputra damaged in Mumbai fire, search on to locate missing sailor

Navy's guided missile frigate was undergoing refit at the Naval Dockyard when the fire broke out

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A FIRE onboard the Navy's INS Brahmaputra on Sunday evening severely damaged the guided missile frigate, rendering it incapable of being brought back to an upright position. No casualties have been reported in the incident, officials said.

A search is underway to locate a junior sailor who went missing after the fire broke out at Mumbai dockyard while INS Brahmaputra was undergoing refit.

The fire was detected by the ship's duty staff while carrying out routine maintenance work onboard the ship. The blaze was brought under control by the ship's crew with the assistance of firefighters from Mumbai's Naval Dockyard and others on Monday morning itself.

The ship continued to list fur-



Built by state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited, INS Brahmaputra is the first of the indigenously built Brahmaputra-class guided missile frigates that was commissioned into the Navy in 2000. Express

continued to list further along-side her berth and is presently resting on one side."

Built by state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited, INS Brahmaputra is the first of the indigenously built Brahmaputra-class guided missile frigates that was commissioned into the Navy in 2000. With a length and beam of 125 metres and 14.4 metres, respectively, INS Brahmaputra has a displacement of 5,300 tonnes, and is capable of speed in excess of 27 knots.

Both INS Beas and INS Betwa — also named after rivers — are other ships in this class.

The Indian Express had reported that the Navy, in collaboration with the government-owned Cochin Shipyard Limited, began the conversion process of the propulsion system of INS Beas from steam to diesel early April. Once successful, there were plans to convert INS

- INS Brahmaputra, an Indian Navy warship undergoing maintenance at the Mumbai naval dockyard, caught fire on July 21.
Commissioned into the Indian Navy in April 2000, INS Brahmaputra marks the debut of the indigenous 'Brahmaputra' class guided missile frigate. This formidable vessel is operated by a dedicated crew comprising 40 officers and 330 sailors, showcasing India's naval prowess and commitment to self-reliance in defence technology.
- The ship is fitted with medium-range, close-range, and anti-aircraft guns, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, and torpedo launchers. It also has an array of sensors covering all facets of maritime warfare and is capable of operating Seaking and Chetak helicopters.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB–History–GSI

Ministry of Culture

Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty

A Testament to Tai-Ahom Culture

Posted On: 22 JUL 2024 8:07PM by PIB Delhi

India is hosting the World Heritage Committee Meeting for the first time. It takes place from 21 to 31 July 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The World Heritage Committee meets annually and is responsible for managing all matters on World Heritage and deciding on sites to be inscribed on the World Heritage list.

The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2024 will examine 27 nominations from around the world, including 19 Cultural, 4 Natural, 2 Mixed sites and 2 Significant modifications to the boundaries. Out of which, India's Moidams – The Mound – Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty is set to be examined under the category of Cultural Property.

Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty

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- The Tai-Ahom clan, migrating from China, established their capital in various parts of the Brahmaputra River Valley from the 12th to the 18th century CE. One of the most revered sites among them was Choraideo, where the Tai-Ahoms established their first capital under Chau-lung Siu-ka-pha at the foothills of the Patkai hills.
- The Tai-Ahom people believed their kings were divine, leading to the establishment of a unique funerary tradition: the construction of Moidams, or vaulted mounds, for royal burials.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB–Economy /Environment–GSIII

Ministry of Power

Government of India issues Operational Guidelines for Implementation of 'Incentives to DISCOMs' under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

Posted On: 22 JUL 2024 1:19PM by PIB Delhi



- The Scheme Guidelines for implementation of 'Incentives to DISCOMs' under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana have been notified by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on 18th July 2024.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27. Under the scheme, DISCOMs are designated as State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) responsible for facilitating various measures including net meter availability, timely inspection, and commissioning of installations

Do you know ?

PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was approved by the Government of India on 29th February 2024, with the aim to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Miscellaneous

Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order By IOC;
Becomes First Indian To Receive Award



- The International Olympic Committee Executive Board has decided to award India's first individual Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra with the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.
- The award will be given during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on 10th of August 2024. The Olympic Order is the highest award of the IOC, given for distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.