

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page1

GDP growth hits 5.4% in Q2, lowest in 7 quarters

This is much lower than independent projections; India's economy faces challenges in achieving RBI's full-year growth forecast of 7.2%; strong rebound needed in the second half to reach target

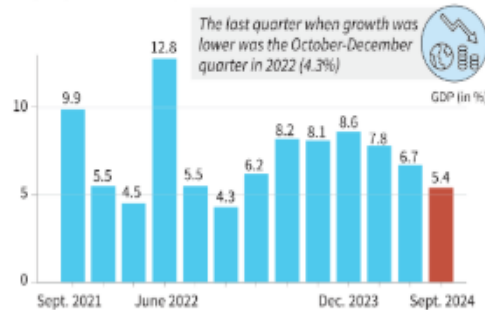
Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

In what economists termed as a sign of trouble, India's real GDP growth slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July to September 2024 quarter, much lower than even the most pessimistic independent projections, from a five-quarter nadir of 6.7% in the first quarter (Q1), with Gross Value Added (GVA) growth slowing to 5.8% from 6.8%.

While Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials had recently estimated GDP growth of 6.8% in Q2 citing economic activity indicators, the Central bank's official estimate enunciated in its October monetary policy review was 7%. Real GDP had grown 8.1% in the

Downward trend

India's real GDP slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July-September 2024 quarter



Core sectors' output up 3.1% in October

NEW DELHI

Output in India's eight core infrastructure sectors, which constitute a tad over 40% of industrial production, recovered to rise 3.1% in October, the best performance in three months in terms of growth and absolute levels. ICC recovered 3.9%. » PAGE 13

while GVA growth was 7.7% in that quarter.

The RBI has projected a full-year GDP growth of 7.2% for 2024-25 and the Finance Ministry expects growth in the 6.5% to 7% range, but this may require a sharp rebound in the second half of the year as real

this April and September as per the NSO data. This is the slowest six-month growth print since the second half of 2022-23 when GDP rose 5.3%, and markedly lower than the 8.2% rise recorded in the first half of 2023-24.

Real GVA growth for the

ated at 6.2%, marginally higher than the GDP print, reversing a trend of GDP growth surpassing the value added in the economy seen through 2023-24.

CONTINUED ON
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REALITY VS HYPER-CONG

- India's GDP growth for the July-September quarter (Q2 of FY25) slowed to 5.4 per cent, reflecting a sharp fall from 8.1 per cent in the same period last year and 6.7 per cent in the April-June quarter (Q1FY25).
- This was disappointing, even though moderation has been predicted for some time, with some economists maintaining a dim view of a recovery in the second half of the financial year. Coming on the back of retail inflation which has surged to 6.2 per cent, this was seen as a setback.

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Silica mining: NGT asks CPCB to prepare pan-India guidelines

'Mining poses health risks to people working in plants or residing nearby'; green court directs the Uttar Pradesh government to create necessary medical infrastructure without further delay

Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI



lease holders are operating silica sand mines. Necessary medical infrastructure for prevention and treatment of affected workers shall be arranged without any further delay”

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Friday directed the Central Pollution Control

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Friday directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to prepare detailed pan-India guidelines for silica sand mining and silica washing plants within three months.
- A silica sand washing plant is used to remove impurities and contaminants from silica sand. Both mining and washing pose health risks to people working in the plants or residing nearby. They also cause silicosis, an occupational lung disease caused by prolonged inhalation of silica dust.
- The green court was hearing a petition on illegal silica sand mining in Uttar Pradesh.
- “CPCB is directed to prepare detailed guidelines in respect of silica sand mining and silica washing plants, to be followed and observed by the concerned Statutory Regulators while granting permission for mining and washing plants and circulate the same to all concerned within three months

Indian Express-Environment(GSIII)-Page 10

Economic factors, cultural reverence behind human-lion coexistence in Gujarat: Study

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

ASIATIC LIONS are co-existing with humans in Gujarat's forests, the only home for their entire population of 674 in India, owing to factors such as cultural and religious reverence for the big cats, government compensation for livestock deaths and availability of abandoned cattle the lions feed on, new research has revealed.

Analysing data of over 14,000 livestock depredations and 11,000 compensation claims, attacks on humans and surveys across 277 villages, the research attempted to find out reasons behind the human-lion coexistence. The data analysed for the study published in *Conservation Biology* was from 2012 to 2017, although the researchers mapped changes in lion range and population for a longer period.

The research revealed that earnings from wildlife tourism and sociocultural acceptance

EXPLAINED **E** Why Gujarat only home of Asiatic lions

CONSERVATIONISTS HAVE called for translocation of lions from Gujarat to neighbouring Madhya Pradesh to improve genetic exchange in the source population and as a guardrail against disease and infections. Even the Supreme Court ruled in favour of their translocation in 2013. However, this order has not yet been implemented as Gujarat has argued against it in the top court, favouring intra-state lion dispersal plans instead.

were key economic drivers for higher tolerance of the predator among humans. People living around lions associate the apex predator with local pride for its charisma and revere it due to religious sentiments, the study noted.

The lions, on the other hand, have benefited on two counts — with greater human acceptance, they can move around outside Gir's protected areas, and, owing to cultural practices, old cattle are abandoned which form a big chunk of the lions' diet. The co-

existence comes in the backdrop of the geographic range of lions rising by 36% between 2015 and 2020 and their population increasing at 6% per annum.

This coexistence though is delicately poised, the research found, and suggested conservation management interventions to mitigate conflict and protect the lions. Since economic drivers play an important role in co-existence, the researchers recommended that the livestock compensation scheme should

be revised regularly, and also favoured the idea of a livestock insurance scheme.

To reduce attacks on humans and livestock, the study prescribed that lion prides in risk hotspots should be monitored proactively, using radio collars with virtual geofences that can trigger warning signals. This, the study said, can pre-empt lion movement and mitigate negative human-lion interactions.

"The lions and communities are co-adapting to coexist. And benefits to each other, lions and people, exceed the costs of living together, resulting in coexistence," said wildlife scientist YV Jhala, who co-authored the study with Keshab Gogoi, Kaushik Banerjee, Stotra Chakrabarti of Wildlife Institute of India and Anirudh Pratap Singh of the Gujarat Forest Department.

The survey also revealed that people belonging to "high-and moderate-conflict villages" were more tolerant of lions than villages with no conflict.

- Asiatic Lions – whose entire population numbering 674 is in Gujarat – co-exist with humans through mutual adaptation, enforced legal protection, economic drivers, and government compensation for livestock, among others, revealed new research released Thursday.
- Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.
- **Asiatic lions are found only in the Gir Forest**, with population growth from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.
- **IUCN Red List Status : Endangered**

Govt proposes raising FDI limit in insurance from 74% to 100%

**RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
& HITESH VYAS**
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 29

THE UNION Finance Ministry on Friday released a consultation paper proposing to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 74 per cent to 100 per cent. The FDI limit in the insurance sector was previously increased from 49 per cent to 74 per cent in February 2021.

The government stated that the proposal to amend certain provisions of insurance laws aims to ensure accessibility and affordability of insurance for citizens, foster the expansion and development of the insurance industry, and streamline business processes.

"In this regard, a comprehensive review of the legislative framework governing the sector has been conducted in consultation with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) and the industry. The proposal includes raising the FDI limit in Indian insurance

well as activities related or incidental to insurance," an office memorandum dated November 26 stated.

The proposal further mentioned that the requirement of Net Owned Funds for foreign reinsurers is also proposed to be reduced from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. Additionally, IRDAI is being empowered to specify lower entry capital (not less than Rs 50 crore) for underserved or unserved segments on a special-case basis.

Notably, the Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Debasish Panda, had earlier this month also advocated for 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the sector, citing the need for significant capital to meet the ambitious "Insurance for All by 2047" vision.

The sector regulator is making efforts to attract more capital to this capital-intensive industry. According to the IRDAI Chairman, the insurance sector needs to infuse approximately ₹50,000 crore annually to double insurance penetration in the

- : The Union Finance Ministry proposed raising the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%.
- Aim: To enhance accessibility and affordability of insurance, foster industry expansion, and streamline business processes.
- Review: A comprehensive review was conducted with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) and the industry.
- Additional Changes:
 - Reduction in Net Owned Funds requirement for foreign reinsurers from ₹5,000 crore to ₹1,000 crore.
 - IRDAI empowered to specify lower entry capital for underserved segments on a special-case basis.
 - Advocacy: IRDAI Chairman, Debasish Panda, advocated for 100% FDI to meet the "Insurance for All by 2047" vision.
- Capital Requirement: The insurance sector needs to infuse approximately ₹50,000 crore annually to double insurance penetration.

Indian Express-Space(GSIII)-Page 17

HOW SCIENTISTS TOOK FIRST DETAILED IMAGE OF STAR OUTSIDE OUR GALAXY

FOR THE first time, scientists have succeeded in taking a zoomed-in picture of a star in another galaxy. The star, known as WOH G64, is located 160,000 light years away in the Large Magellanic Cloud.

The scientists have described their observations in the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

How was the picture taken?

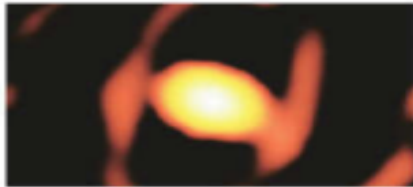
Until now, researchers have taken pictures of stars in other galaxies that show them as little more than points of light. However, with the help of the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLTI), they have revealed a detailed image of WOH G64.

VLTI comprises four 8-metre diameter telescopes situated in Cerro Paranal, Chile. It also has an interferometer called GRAVITY that combines the light from the telescopes to achieve the resolution of a much larger telescope, according to a report by *The New York Times*.

What do we know about WOH G64?

WOH G64 is around 2,000 times the diameter of the Sun.

The new photo has revealed that the star is entering the last stages of its life. In recent years, WOH G64 has blown off its



This is the first close-up picture of a star in another galaxy. *The NYT*

outer layer, and it is now surrounded by wreaths and arcs of gas and dust.

Dr Jacco van Loon, co-author of the study, told *The Guardian*, "Massive stars explode with an energy equivalent to the Sun shining for all of its 10 billion years of life... Astronomers have found some of the stars that exploded in older images. But we have never seen a star change in a way that signals its imminent death."

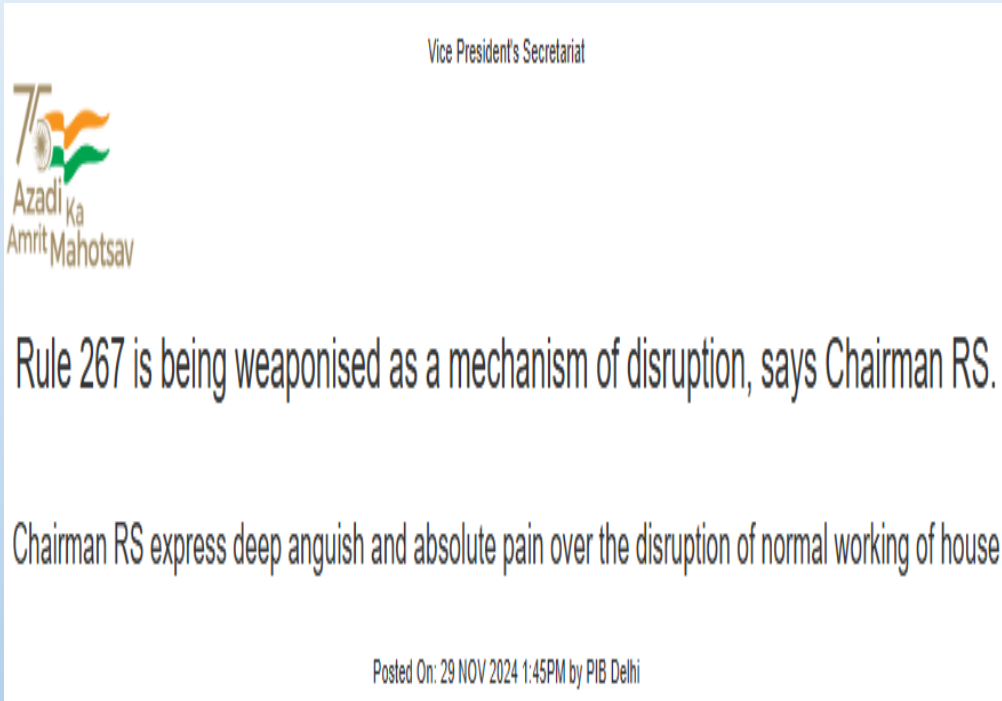
When big stars like WOH G64 exhaust their nuclear fuel which keeps them burning, their cores collapse. Some massive stars collapse directly to form a black hole. Others collapse and lead to an explosion called supernova, which produces many elements.

ENS

- For the first time, scientists have captured a detailed image of a star in another galaxy, WOH G64, located 160,000 light-years away in the Large Magellanic Cloud. The star is surrounded by an egg-shaped cocoon of gas and dust, and is believed to be the largest star in its galaxy, around 2,000 times the diameter of the Sun.
 - The image was taken using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLTI) in Chile, which combines light from four 8-meter telescopes to achieve high resolution.
- WOH G64 is nearing the end of its life, having shed its outer layers. It is expected to undergo a supernova explosion, potentially collapsing into a black hole. This marks the first time astronomers have observed a star's imminent death in such detail, providing valuable insights into stellar evolution.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Governance(GS2)



- According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), under Rule 267, members can give a written notice to suspend all listed businesses to discuss an issue of importance the country is facing.
- The Rules regulate the conduct of businesses and also allow MPs to raise matters of importance for discussion and debate.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Defense(GS3)



- Technology Development Fund Scheme is a program of Ministry of Defence (MoD) executed by DRDO under “Make-in-India” initiative.
- The Government has approved TDF Scheme to encourage participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs and start-ups to design and develop various defence technologies indigenously.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Economy(GS3)

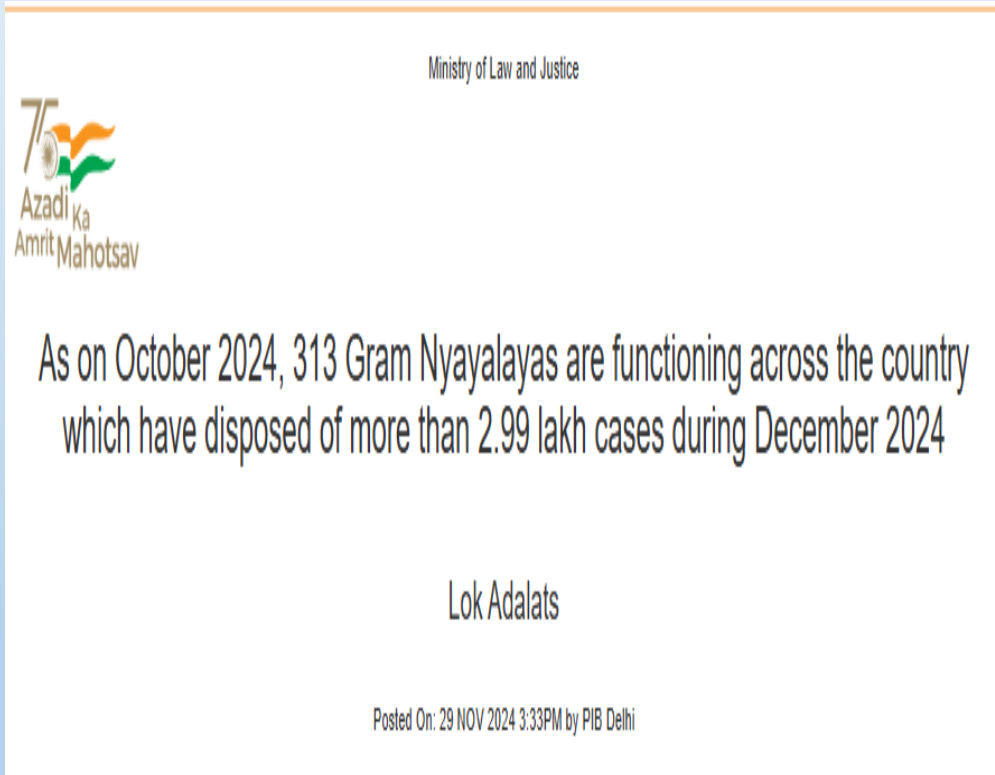


- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$98 million loan to improve horticulture crop farmers' access to certified disease-free planting materials, which will boost their crops' yield, quality, and resilience to climate impacts.
- The signatories to the loan agreement for the Building India's Clean Plant Programme were Ms. Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Kai Wei Yeo Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission, for ADB.
- After signing the agreement, Ms. Mukherjee stated that the ADB funding will promote plant health that is vital for improving productivity of farmers.
- "The project supports the Government of India's *Atmanirbhar* Clean Plant Programme (CPP) that enhances plant health management. It will help develop regulatory framework and institutional systems to effectively implement the CPP for horticulture in India. The project will involve close consultation with private nurseries, researchers, state governments, and growers' associations to ensure its success and sustainability,

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Governance(GS2)



- As of October 2024, there are 688 District Courts and 313 Gram Nyayalayas functioning across India. The Gram Nyayalayas, established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, aim to provide access to justice at the grassroots level, particularly in rural areas. These courts have disposed of over 2.99 lakh cases from December 2020 to October 2024.
- The Law Commission of India, in its 114 th Report, had suggested establishment of Gram Nyayalayas for providing affordable and quick access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps. The Gram Nyayalayas Bill was passed by the Parliament on 22nd December 2008 and the Gram Nyayalayas Act came into force with effect from 02nd October, 2009. The Act extends to the whole of India, except to the States of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and to the tribal areas specified in Parts I, II, IIA and III of the Table below paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India within the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, respectively.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Economy(GSIII)

Govt Has Diversified Kisan Credit Card Scheme By Expanding It To Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Other Sectors: FM Sitharaman



- **Govt has diversified Kisan Credit Card scheme by expanding it to fisheries, animal husbandry, other sectors:**
- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC)scheme was introduced in 1998 for issue of Kisan Credit Cards to farmers on the basis of their holdings for uniform adoption by the banks so that farmers may use them to readily purchase agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs. The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in the year 2004.