



THE HINDU

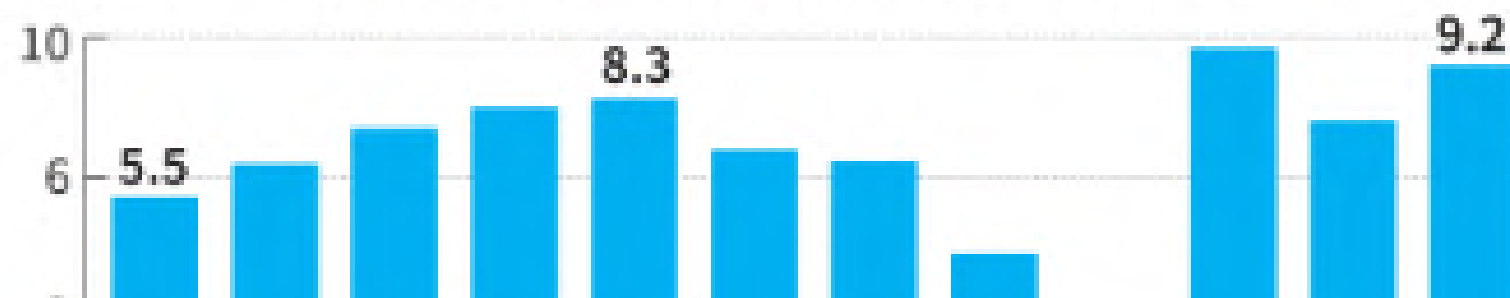


GS Paper 3-Economy

GDP grows 6.2% on rising government, consumer spending

Slow rebound

The chart shows the annual growth rate of GDP at constant market prices (in %). Real GDP has grown by 9.2% in 2023-24, highest in the previous 12 years, except for 2021-22





KEY POINTS

India's GDP grew 6.2% in Q3 of 2024, up from 5.6% in Q2 but slower than 9.5% in Q3 2023. Growth was driven by higher government spending (8.3%), private consumption (6.9%), and exports (10.4%), while imports fell 1.1%. Investment growth slowed to 5.7%. To meet a full-year growth target of 6.5%, a 7.6% growth in Q4 is needed





GS Paper 3-Science and Tech

ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission captures first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'

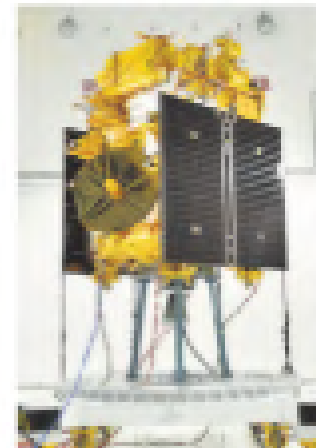
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's first dedicated space-based solar mission, Aditya-L1, has made a ground-breaking observation as one of its scientific payloads has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'.

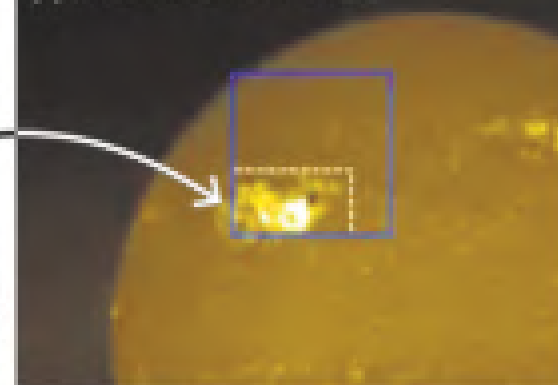
The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload has captured the image in the lower solar atmosphere – the photosphere and chromosphere.

Energy burst

Aditya-L1 has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'.



(a) NB04 2024-Feb-22 22:28:50



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

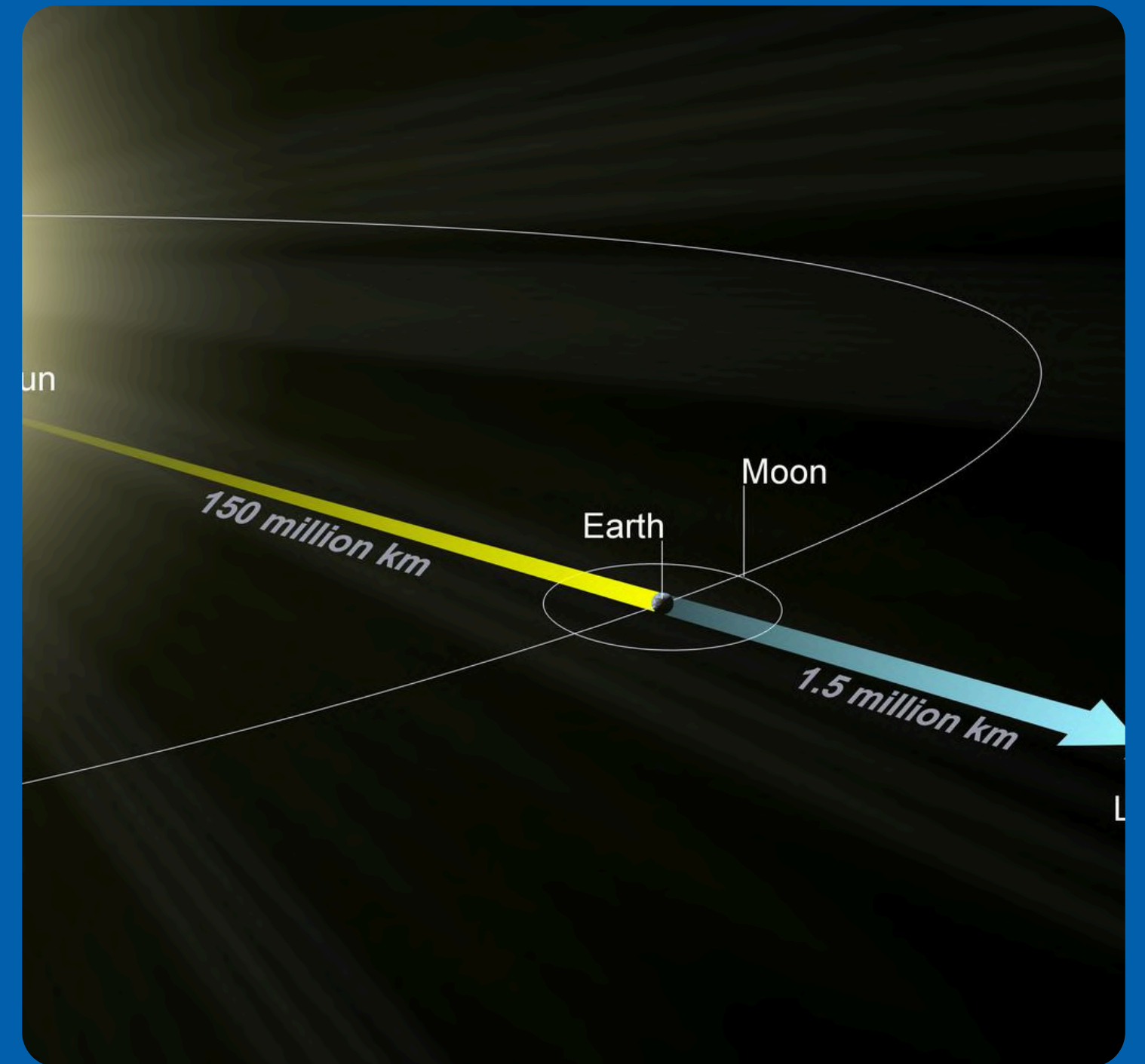
- X6.3-class solar flare ranks among the most intense solar eruptions
- Observation confirms flare energy exceeds 1000 MW

- It reveals new insights into the physics of massive solar events



KEY POINTS

India's Aditya-L1 mission, launched on September 2, 2023, captured its first-ever image of a solar flare using the SUT payload. The observation, made on February 22, 2024, revealed new insights into solar flares, including energy release and temperature changes in the Sun's atmosphere, confirming long-standing theories and advancing our understanding of solar physics.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Environment

The necessity of mainstreaming wetland conservation

The *suo motu* public interest litigation by the Meghalaya High Court very recently, to monitor the conservation of wetlands in the State brings the focus back on this important ecosystem. Since 1971, February 2 is observed every year as 'World Wetland Day' to mark the adoption of the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation of wetlands, which was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The theme this year was 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future'. It is a theme that has appropriately positioned wetlands in the sustainable development perspective, as espoused in the Brundtland report, 'Our Common Future', and published by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987.

Many pressures

Wetlands, one of the most biologically productive ecosystems, provide multiple benefits. Globally,



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laid stress on preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan and recognised that the conservation and management of wetlands cannot be a stand-alone initiative. It needs to be contextualised and appropriately linked to other international environment development initiatives.

Accordingly, the COP14 argued that implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan would be an important contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, meeting the Global Biodiversity targets, the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. It would also align with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and any relevant work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other global programmes relating to wetlands. The global changes resulting from the

According to an estimate by the Wetlands International South-Asia (WISA), nearly 30% of the natural wetlands in India have been lost in the last four decades due to urbanisation, infrastructure building, agricultural expansion and pollution. The loss is more in urban areas, especially around major urban centres. It is reported that from 1970 to 2014, Mumbai lost 71% of its wetlands.

Another study has shown that wetlands in east Kolkata have shrunk by 36% in 30 years from 1991 to 2021. A recent WWF study has indicated that Chennai has lost 85% of its wetlands. There have been several studies indicating the loss of ecosystem services due to the degradation of wetlands around the world. One such study, of Cali city in Colombia, has brought out that the estimated loss of total ecosystem services due to loss of urban wetlands is \$76,827 a hectare in a year. In the peri-urban area the loss is estimated at \$30.354 a ha a year.



KEY POINTS

- The Meghalaya High Court recently focused on wetland conservation, coinciding with World Wetland Day. Wetlands, vital for biodiversity and ecosystem services, face severe threats from urbanization, pollution, and climate change. Globally, wetlands have declined significantly, with India losing 30% of its natural wetlands in the last 40 years.
- The Ramsar Convention emphasizes the need for comprehensive management strategies,





GS Paper 3-Economy

India must hasten reforms to speed up growth: World Bank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India would need to grow by 7.8% on an average over the next 22 years to achieve the country's aspirations of reaching high-income status by 2047, said the World Bank in a report released on Friday.

Achieving this target is possible, however, getting there will require reforms and their implementation to be as ambitious as the target itself, the bank said in the report titled: *India-Country Economic Memorandum: 'Becoming a High-Income Economy in a Generation.'*

Recognising India's fast



Past achievements provide the foundation for India's future ambitions, says the bank.

sition from middle- to high-income countries by deepening integration into the global economy," said Augustine Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director adding, "India can chart its own path by stepping up

2035; c) increasing overall labour force participation from 56.4% to above 65% and d) accelerating overall productivity growth.

"India can take advantage of its demographic dividend by investing in human capital, creating enabling conditions for more and better jobs and raising female labour force participation rates from 35.6% to 50% by 2047," said Emilia Skrok and Rangeet Ghosh, co-authors of the report.

In the past three fiscal years, India has accelerated its average growth rate to 7.2%. To attain an average growth rate of 7.8% (in real terms) over the next



KEY POINTS

The World Bank's report states that India needs to grow at 7.8% annually over the next 22 years to achieve high-income status by 2047. This requires reforms in investment, labor force participation, productivity, and global integration, along with fostering job creation and technology adoption.





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GS Paper 3-Economy

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



10,000 FPOs Achieved under Government's Flagship Scheme

A Step Towards Atmnirbhar Krishi

Posted On: 28 FEB 2025 3:21PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

- The "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" scheme, launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2020 with a ₹6,865 Crore budget, aims to support small farmers by forming FPOs for better access to markets, technology, and financing. The scheme provides financial aid and credit guarantees to FPOs, offering five years of support for management and capacity building

Today, Bihar is witnessing the formation of the 10,000th FPO,

working on maize, banana & paddy, been registered in Khagaria district

