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GDP growth quickens to five-quarter high of 7.8%

Manufacturing, construction, and services sectors propel growth, defying RBI predictions; the momentum will continue, says CEA Anantha Nageswaran, seeking to allay fears over U.S. tariffs

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's economic growth rate in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year quickened to a five-quarter high of 7.8%, driven by strong performances by sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and services, government data showed.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, as shown by data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday, was previously quicker during January-March 2024. The 7.8% growth recorded in Q1 of this financial year was higher than the 6.5% predicted by the Reserve Bank of India as recently as August 6.

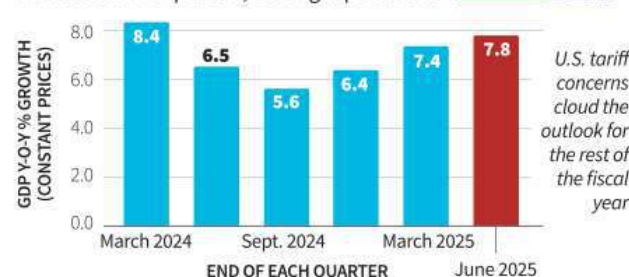
The government also sought to ease worries about growth slowing in the coming quarters as a result of the 50% tariffs imposed by the United States on its imports from India.

Some impacts expected

"We do see the momentum continuing," Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said during a press briefing following the release of the

Present perfect, future tense

India's economy grew **7.8%** in April-June 2025, the fastest in five quarters, beating expectations



government data.

"There will be some impact on domestic spending because of uncertainties in the export sectors, which are affected because of exposure to the U.S., as those units may take some decisions regarding their labour force."

"But we do expect the impact on demand to be of a very modest nature," Mr. Nageswaran added.

"Overall aggregate demand growth in the economy should hold up specifically because of the government's decision to lower the indirect tax rates."

Mr. Nageswaran expressed confidence that the temporary dip in consumer demand in the run-up to the GST Council meeting would reverse itself well before the upcoming

festival season.

Mr. Nageswaran also said the government was retaining its growth estimate for the full financial year.

Mixed sector trends

Growth in the manufacturing sector quickened to 7.7% in the April-June 2025 quarter, coming on top of a high base of 7.6% in the same quarter of the previous year.

This was also faster than the 4.8% growth the sector saw in the January-March 2025 quarter.

The construction sector grew at 7.6%, on a high base of 10.1% in Q1 of last year.

The Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and Other Utility Services sector, however, saw growth slow down sharply to 0.5%, from

Rupee crashes to an all-time low of 88.09 against USD

MUMBAI

Rupee fell to ₹88.09 against the U.S. dollar, responding to the additional tariffs imposed by the U.S. The domestic currency may depreciate further to ₹89.5-₹90 in the coming weeks, analysts said. » **PAGE 11**

10.2% in the same quarter of the previous year.

The quarter's GDP growth was also propelled by the services sector, which on a combined basis grew 9.3%, faster than the 6.8% seen in the same quarter of last year, or the 7.3% growth in the immediately preceding quarter.

Within this, the Public Administration, Defence and Other Services sector saw the growth accelerating to a three-year high of 9.8%, coming on top of a 9% growth in Q1 of the previous year.

The Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services sector grew at 9.5%, a two-year high.

Similarly, the Trade, Hotels, Transport, and Communication Services sector grew at 8.6%, also a two-year high.

GDP Growth Quickens to 7.8%

English:

India's economy recorded **7.8% GDP growth in Q1 (Apr-Jun 2025)**, the fastest in five quarters. Growth was driven by **manufacturing (7.7%)**, **construction (7.6%)** and **services (9.3%)**. Chief Economic Adviser V.

Anantha Nageswaran expressed confidence that the U.S. tariffs will have only a modest impact.

हिन्दी:

भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था ने 7.8% जीडीपी वृद्धि (अप्रैल-जून 2025) दर्ज की, जो पिछले पाँच तिमाहियों में सबसे अधिक है। वृद्धि का प्रमुख कारण **विनिर्माण (7.7%)**, **निर्माण (7.6%)** और **सेवाएँ (9.3%)** रहे। मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार वी. अनंथा नागेश्वरन ने कहा कि अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए टैरिफ का असर मामूली होगा।

PM vows India will become 3rd largest economy, weeks after Trump's 'dead' swipe

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of trade-related uncertainties with the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made a strong case for investing in India, declaring that the Indian economy will “very soon” be the third largest economy in the world.

Addressing the India-Japan Economic Forum in Tokyo, Mr. Modi said that most Japanese companies find India attractive, adding that India is a “springboard” to access the Global South. Welcoming the visiting Indian Prime Minister, Japan announced a private investment target of ¥10 trillion for India over the next decade.

“Japanese companies have invested more than \$40 billion in India. In the last two years alone, there has been private investment of \$13 billion. JBIC (Japan Bank of International Cooperation) says India is the most ‘promising’ destination. JETRO (Japan External Trade Organisation) says 80% of companies want to expand in India, and 75% are already profitable,” the Prime Minister said. “Which means, in India, capital does not just grow, it multiplies.”

On July 31, Mr. Trump had criticised India for its



Narendra Modi with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba during the India-Japan Economic Forum in Tokyo on Friday. PTI

high tariffs and cited its purchases of Russian crude as his main reason for imposing the additional penalty tariff. He said: “I don’t care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together.”

Joint AI initiative

After the India-Japan Annual Summit, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said the two countries had discussed a “wide range of areas, including defence and the economy”. They launched an India-Japan AI Initiative as well as an Economic Security Initiative to promote supply chain resilience in sectors like pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and new and emerging technologies.

The interaction also saw the launch of the India-Japan Small and Medium En-

terprises Forum to strengthen cooperation between SMEs in both nations.

Financing green energy

Noting that India has enjoyed “deep economic ties with Japan”, Mr. Modi held up their collaborations in the auto sector as the model for the two countries to “recreate the same magic in batteries, robotics, semiconductors, shipbuilding, [and] nuclear energy”.

The two countries announced 13 outcomes, including several MoUs, such as the agreement on a Joint Credit Mechanism aimed at financing green energy, security cooperation, and cooperation in mineral resources. An action plan was adopted to promote the two-way exchange of five lakh people between India and Japan from India to Japan over the next five years.

PM Modi: India to Soon Be World's 3rd Largest Economy

English:

At the **India–Japan Economic Forum in Tokyo**, PM Modi declared India will soon be the **third-largest economy**. Japan pledged **¥10 trillion investment in India over 10 years**. Both nations launched initiatives on **AI, supply chain resilience, critical minerals, and green energy financing**.

हिन्दी:

भारत-जापान आर्थिक मंच (टोक्यो) में प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत जल्द ही **तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था** बनेगा। जापान ने **10 ट्रिलियन येन निवेश** का वादा किया। दोनों देशों ने **एआई, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला लचीलापन, खनिज संसाधन और हरित ऊर्जा** वित्त में पहल की

Bihar SIR: court to hear plea to extend claims deadline

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday has agreed to hear pleas from political parties, including the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, seeking an extension of the September 1 deadline to file claims and objections on the draft electoral roll published during the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar.

The parties have urged the court to direct the Election Commission (EC) to extend the last date to September 15 to provide more time for excluded voters who can now submit claims using their Aadhaar cards, as well as those hit by severe floods. The SC will hear the plea on September 8.

The oral mentioning was made before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, appearing for the petitioner NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, on Friday.

Increase in claims

The parties argued that claims have increased significantly over the last week. "Since the last order of the Supreme Court on



A booth-level officer checks documents during Bihar SIR in July. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

August 22 permitting the filing of claims along with Aadhaar card, the number of claims has doubled from 84,305 on August 22 to 1,78,948 electors on August 27 in only five days. However, across districts, there are many instances where officers have refused to accept the claims only with the Aadhaar card," the RJD submitted.

The CPI(M-L) said booth-level officers (BLOs) were insisting on the submission of Form 6 for re-inclusion into the Bihar electoral roll, though the form is meant for new voters or those transferred from one constituency to another.

The RJD said claims and Aadhaar cards collected by its booth-level agents (BLAs) and submitted to BLOs are acknowledged, but not reflected in the EC's daily status report.

Border districts account for most EC notices

NEW DELHI

As the Election Commission started issuing notices this week to voters in Bihar whose documents have not been found satisfactory during the ongoing SIR, officials told *The Hindu* that most of these cases have been identified in border districts of the State. » **PAGE 4**

"This is to start a wrong narrative that the BLAs of political parties are not cooperating and filing claims..." it said.

The party said it had tried to counter the EC's "narrative" by posting the BLOs' acknowledgements on social media on August 25. "The EC was also marked on the post. However, the EC did not correct its daily status report... The status report published on August 28 reflects three claims against RJD, when the number of claims filed by BLAs is significantly higher," the application said.

The RJD added that out of the 7.2 crore electors who had submitted their enumeration forms and were included in the draft roll, many were yet to submit any of the 11 indicative documents.

Bihar Electoral Roll Dispute Reaches SC

English:

The **Supreme Court** will hear pleas by RJD, CPI(ML) and others seeking to extend the **claims deadline for Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls from **Sept 1 to Sept 15**. Political parties allege EC officials are rejecting claims with Aadhaar, leading to exclusion of voters.

हिन्दी:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट बिहार के **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** मतदाता सूची के दावों की अंतिम तिथि **1 सितंबर से 15 सितंबर तक बढ़ाने** की याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई करेगा। विपक्षी दलों का आरोप है कि **आधार कार्ड** के साथ किए गए दावों को खारिज किया जा रहा है, जिससे मतदाताओं का नाम सूची से हटाया जा रहा है

Five dead and 11 missing as heavy rain wreaks havoc in Uttarakhand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Five people died and 11 went missing after torrential rain wreaked havoc in several parts of Uttarakhand on Friday. Eleven districts have issued travel advisories for pilgrims and tourists as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued orange and red alerts for different places in the Himalayan hill State.

The downpour which started on Thursday triggered landslides in Chamoli, Tehri, Rudraprayag and Bageshwar districts, causing heavy losses to both public and private infrastructure. Several houses were damaged and people were stranded on roads.

Heavy damage

According to the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), a house and cowshed were buried under debris in Mopata village of Chamoli district, killing a couple while another couple were pulled out.

The incessant rain and landslides in the Basukedar area of Rudraprayag caused heavy damage in more than half a dozen villages, said the SDMA. One woman died in a rain-related incident while eight



Under debris: State Disaster Response Force members during a rescue operation at a village in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on Friday. PTI

were missing from various villages, including four labourers.

"The worst-hit villages are Dungar village of Chenagadh, where some people are missing after a landslide hit houses. A similar situation was reported in Jaula-Bhadeth village," said Prateek Jain, District Magistrate, Rudraprayag.

A landslide also hit the Kedarnath valley in Rudraprayag, and a bridge at Lawara village was swept away. Even the Alaknanda river had crossed the danger mark in the district, creating a flood-like situation in the ravines on both sides of Badeth, Bagaddhar

and Taljamani villages.

In Bageshwar, torrential rain damaged nearly half a dozen houses in Pausari gram panchayat in Kapkot area, killing two women and leaving three others missing.

NDRF deployed

The officials in the district administration in the affected areas said all necessary steps are being taken to provide immediate assistance and shift affected residents to safe locations. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the police, and revenue offi-

cials are actively engaged in relief work.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief over the loss of life and ordered the district administrations to ensure immediate relief and rescue work.

Uttarakhand has been one of the worst disaster-hit States in India during the ongoing monsoon season. Earlier this month, flash floods washed away the entire Dharali village in Uttarakashi. Sixty-eight people are still missing in Dharali and neighbouring Harsil, where an Army camp bore the brunt of the flood fury.

Uttarakhand Floods and Landslides

English:

Heavy rain triggered **landslides in Chamoli, Tehri, Rudraprayag and Bageshwar**, killing **5** and leaving **11 missing**. Infrastructure was damaged and several villages were cut off. **NDRF and SDRF teams** are engaged in rescue efforts. CM Dhami directed immediate relief.

हिन्दी:

भारी वर्षा से चमोली, टिहरी, रुद्रप्रयाग और बागेश्वर जिलों में भूस्खलन हुआ, जिसमें 5 लोगों की मौत और 11 लापता हो गए। कई गाँव कट गए। एनडीआरएफ और एसडीआरएफ राहत कार्य में जुटे हैं। मुख्यमंत्री धामी ने तुरंत राहत कार्य के आदेश दिए

Bihar Cabinet approves new aid scheme to help women start businesses

One woman from each family will be given ₹10,000 as first instalment, which will be released from next month; CM underscores that it will empower women, create better job opportunities

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet on Friday approved the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana to provide financial aid to one woman from every family in the State to start a business of her choice. Under the scheme, a woman from every family would be provided ₹10,000 as the first instalment.

Chief Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said, "Following the evaluation of the performance of women's entrepreneurial ventures after six months, an additional ₹2 lakh will be given as grant to the women entrepreneurs." The process of releasing the first instalment will begin from September and it will be transferred into the bank accounts of the women, he said.

Clearing the scheme was the only agenda of the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who announced the Cabinet's decision through



Clearing the scheme was the only agenda of the Cabinet meeting chaired by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday. FILE PHOTO



Following evaluation of the performance of the entrepreneurial ventures after six months, an additional ₹2 lakh will be given as grant to the women

AMRIT LAL MEENA
Chief Secretary

his social media post on X.

Mr. Kumar exuded confidence that the implementation of the scheme would not only further strengthen women but also help in creating "better employ-

ment opportunities" so that people will not have to move out of the State in search of job opportunities out of compulsion. *Haat bazars* will be developed in villages and towns to boost the sales of the products.

Responding to a query on whether the women entrepreneurs will have to return the ₹10,000 given as grant, Mr. Meena made it clear that "they [entrepreneurs] do not need to return it [to the government] as the amount given to them [entrepreneurs] is a kind of grant or economic aid". "The idea is to promote and help those women who want to become

entrepreneurs on their own," the Chief Secretary said.

Previous schemes

Recounting the schemes rolled out by the State government for women's empowerment, Mr. Meena said the government took a "major decision to give reservation of 50% in both rural and urban local bodies in 2006 and 2007 respectively for women's political empowerment".

He added that the State government also implemented prohibition in 2016 in response to women's demand. "The ban [on liquor] is quite successful in the State besides it helped a lot in improving women's lot," Mr. Meena said.

He also pointed out many government schemes launched to "educationally empower" women, especially girls. Schemes were launched to provide school uniforms, bicycles, and scholarships at Classes 10, 12, and graduation levels to girl students, he added.

Bihar Cabinet Approves Women Employment Scheme

English:

Bihar Cabinet approved the **Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana** – one woman from each family will get **₹10,000 to start a business**, followed by **₹2 lakh grant** after six months based on performance. CM Nitish

Kumar said this will empower women and create jobs.

हिन्दी:

बिहार कैबिनेट ने **मुख्यमंत्री महिला रोजगार योजना** को मंजूरी दी - प्रत्येक परिवार की एक महिला को **₹10,000** व्यवसाय शुरू करने हेतु दिए जाएंगे, और छह माह बाद प्रदर्शन के आधार पर **₹2 लाख का अनुदान** मिलेगा। मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने कहा कि इससे महिलाएँ सशक्त होंगी और रोजगार के अवसर बनेंगे

SC notice to Centre over plea to make Ram Setu a monument

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy seeking directions to the Ministry of Culture for an expeditious decision on his representations for declaring the Ram Setu a monument of national importance. A Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath listed the case for hearing after four weeks.

Ram Setu, also known as Adam's Bridge, is a chain of limestone shoals between Rameswaram, off the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nadu and Mannar Island, off the north-western coast of Sri Lanka. Mr. Swamy had earlier raised the issue in a plea challenging the Sethusamudram Ship Channel project initiated by the UPA government.

SC Notice on Ram Setu as National Monument

English:

SC issued notice to Centre on Subramanian Swamy's plea seeking declaration of Ram Setu (Adam's Bridge) as a monument of national importance. Case listed after 4 weeks.

हिन्दी:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र को नोटिस जारी किया, सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी की याचिका पर जिसमें राम सेतु (आदम्स ब्रिज) को राष्ट्रीय महत्व का स्मारक घोषित करने की माँग की गई है। सुनवाई चार सप्ताह बाद होगी

SC asks Centre to clarify if Bengali speakers are considered foreigners

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought clarity from the Centre on a petition claiming authorities presume Bengali speakers are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, leading to bias, discrimination and "widespread and arbitrary detention" of migrant workers in multiple States.

"We would like you to clarify... The petition seeks to demonstrate there is a certain bias, namely, the use of a particular language becoming the source of a presumption that the speaker is a foreigner. Whether this is correct or not. You clarify that," Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, orally addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the government.

The petition filed by an NGO, West Bengal Migrant Workers Welfare Board, represented by advocate



Prashant Bhushan, alleged labourers from West Bengal were detained without due verification, procedural safeguards or compliance with established inter-State coordination protocols. The petition claimed they were deported in spite of documentation proving Indian citizenship. The NGO challenged the detention of migrant workers, particularly against the backdrop of a Home Ministry letter of May 2 "authorising inter-State verification and detention of suspected illegal immigrants". Vehemently denying the allegation, Mr. Mehta questioned the *bo-*

... we have to understand we inherit... common culture and heritage in Punjab and Bengal where language is the same but borders divide us

JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
Supreme Court Judge

na fide of the petitioner. He countered why none of the aggrieved persons, allegedly facing deportation, had moved court. Justice Kant remarked they may not have the capacity to do so.

Mr. Mehta submitted "India was not the world's capital for illegal immigrants". He argued the government was only trying to ensure immigrants did not "eat away our resources which we can divert to our own citizens".

Justice Kant agreed illegal immigration through porous borders from Assam, Tripura to West Bengal was a reality.

But Justice Bagchi, on a

lighter note, reacted with a question: "Mr. Solicitor, do you propose to build a wall like in America?"

The court scheduled the case on September 11.

"There are sensitive issues here. One is the national security of our country. The integrity of our nation and the preservation of our resources. It goes without saying this is of paramount concern. At the same time, we have to understand we inherit a legacy of common culture and heritage both in Punjab and Bengal where the language is the same but borders divide us... With this in mind, we request you to clarify the stance of the government," Justice Bagchi said.

Mr. Bhushan asked how any authority could push out people without an order from a court or foreigners' tribunals, or without securing an agreement with the foreign country. "This has drastic consequences," he submitted.

SC Asks Centre on “Bengali = Foreigner” Bias

English:

SC sought Centre’s clarification on allegations that Bengali speakers are presumed foreigners and arbitrarily detained as illegal immigrants. The court flagged national security concerns but also common cultural heritage of Bengal. Next hearing on Sept 11.

हिन्दी:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र से स्पष्टीकरण माँगा कि क्या बांग्ला भाषी लोगों को विदेशी मानने और उन्हें अवैध प्रवासी के रूप में हिरासत में लेने का प्रचलन है। अदालत ने राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और बंगाल की सांस्कृतिक विरासत दोनों पर जोर दिया। अगली सुनवाई 11 सितंबर को होगी



Strong ties: Russian President Vladimir Putin and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had met earlier this month in Moscow. AP

Russian President set to visit India in December: Kremlin

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will pay an official visit to India in December, the Kremlin said on Friday, as ties between the countries grow closer after the U.S. imposed tariffs on New Delhi over its purchases of Russian oil.

Mr. Putin will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a regional summit in China on Monday, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters, saying the pair would discuss “preparation for the December visit”.

U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on Indian goods as ‘punishment’ for India’s massive purchases of Russian oil, part of a campaign to pressure Moscow into ending its offensive in Ukraine.

Russia is also one of India’s top arms suppliers,

and the warm ties between the two countries date back to the Soviet era. Ukraine’s Western allies have sought to cut Russia’s export earnings since Moscow launched its military assault in February 2022.

But Russia has been able to redirect energy sales away from Europe to countries including India and China, ensuring the multi-billion-dollar flow of funds has continued.

India has argued that it imported oil “from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict”.

Mr. Putin has significantly curtailed his foreign travel amid the offensive on Ukraine, for which he was slapped with an International Criminal Court arrest warrant. India is not a party to the ICC and therefore not obligated to detain Mr. Putin.

Russian President Putin to Visit India in December

English:

Kremlin announced President Vladimir Putin will visit India in December 2025, amid strengthening energy and defence ties. India continues importing Russian oil despite U.S. tariffs.

हिन्दी:

क्रेमलिन ने घोषणा की कि राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन दिसंबर 2025 में भारत आएंगे। ऊर्जा और रक्षा संबंधों को मज़बूती मिलेगी। भारत अमेरिकी टैरिफ के बावजूद रूसी तेल आयात कर रहा है