

Decoding The Hindu Article

India to grow at 8%: World Bank

Due to Ukraine war, growth in South Asia expected to be slower than projected

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

India is projected to grow at 8% over the current fiscal year (April 1- March 31), and 7.1% over the next (2023-24) fiscal year, the **World Bank** said in its bi-annual *South Asia Economic Focus Reshaping Norms: A New Way Forward*, released on Wednesday, in the run-up to the World Bank **IMF** Spring Meetings.

The country is estimated to have grown at 8.3% in the fiscal year that just passed, following a contraction of 6.6% in the previous year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the South Asia region, growth is expected to be slower than projected, by 1 percentage point, at 6.6% in

Slow pace | South Asia region's growth is expected to be slower due to Russia's war on Ukraine, which impacted the region while it was experiencing uneven and fragile growth

Country	FY20/21	FY21/22(e)	FY22/23(f)	FY23/24(f)
India	-6,6	8,3	8	7,1
	2020	2021(e)	2022(f)	2023(f)
Sri Lanka*	-3,6	3,5	2,4	NA
	FY19/20	FY20/21(e)	FY21/22(f)	FY22/23(f)
Bangladesh	3,4	6,9	6,4	6,7
Pakistan	-1	5,6	4,3	4

* = DATA FOR CALENDAR YEAR; (e) = ESTIMATED; (f) = FORECAST

2022 and 6.3% next calendar year. This is due to Russia's war on Ukraine, which has impacted the region, when it was already experiencing "fragile" growth, rising commodity prices, bottlenecks to supply and financial sector vulnerabilities. The impact of the war has seen faster inflation, deteriorating

current account balances and growing fiscal deficits, according to the lender.

External shocks

"Given these challenges, governments need to carefully plan monetary and fiscal policies to counter external shocks and protect the vulnerable, while laying the

foundation for green, **resilient** and inclusive growth," Hartwig Schafer, World Bank Vice-President for South Asia, said in a statement.

There is limited space for fiscal stimulus, and supply bottlenecks are of greater significance than insufficient effective demand, Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for the South Asia region, told reporters on Wednesday.

Asked what the impact of sanctions on Russia would be on the South Asian region, he said the impact was indirect, rather than direct, given the relatively low proportion of exports and imports that go to and come from Russia and Ukraine.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Bottleneck	(Noun): a situation that causes delay in a process or system. .	टोंटी
Resilient	(Adjective): able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.	स्थिति-स्थापक

Static News

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital project.

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

President: David Malpass

Founded: July 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States

Motto: Working for a World Free of Poverty

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of 190 countries.

Headquarters Washington, D.C., U.S.

First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath

Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

Grammar

The type 2 conditional refers to an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its probable result. These sentences are not based on the actual situation. In type 2 conditional sentences, the time is now or any time and the situation is hypothetical.

Examples: If the weather wasn't so bad, we would go to the park. (But the weather is bad so we can't go.)

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Decoding The Hindu Article

UGC issues norms for students to do two programmes at once

The guidelines are applicable to academic programmes other than Ph.D.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday issued guidelines to allow students to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously at higher education institutes recognised by it or statutory councils or the Government of India.

According to the UGC notification, the guidelines come into effect from Wednesday based on which universities can now devise mechanisms through their statutory bodies to allow students to opt for two courses simultaneously.

The UGC says students cannot claim retrospective benefit.

The guidelines will be applicable for academic programmes other than Ph.D.

In a letter to Vice-Chancellors and principals of colleges and higher education institutes, UGC Secretary **Rajnish Jain** said the move was in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP)**, 2020, "which emphasises on



Double scoop: The UGC has said the move caters to the increase in demand for higher education. •PTI

the need to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education".

Mr. Jain wrote, "With the rapid increase in demand for higher education and limited availability of seats in regular stream, several higher education institutes have started a number of programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) to meet the aspirations of students. It has also led to the

emergence of online education programmes."

Mixed response

The move has evoked a mixed response.

"This decision will increase the load on universities. It doesn't increase the number of students enrolling in universities because the same student will study two courses. So, the gross enrolment ratio [GER] in higher education doesn't go

up. The move will also lead to a demand for more teachers when thousands of vacancies for current needs haven't been filled. We are already stretched," said a former UGC Chairman who didn't want to be identified.

The GER for higher education is at 27.1% according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20. The NEP has set the target of raising this to 50% by 2035.

Former Delhi University (DU) Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh welcomed the move, which the DU had already implemented during his tenure. "Admission to one course doesn't preclude your capability to pursue another course. If a student is not capable, then they will not succeed. But if they are capable, let them take it. I think this decision was long overdue. Before my time at DU, students pursuing a second course on the sly would be penalised. Why penalise a student who is only looking to enhance his or her skills?"

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Evoked	(Verb): bring or recall (a feeling, memory, or image) to the conscious mind.	पैदा की

Static News

The University Grants Commission of India is a statutory body set up by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India in accordance to the UGC Act 1956 and is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education.

Founded: 1956

First executive: Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar

Agency executive: D. P. Singh (Chairperson)

The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986 and modified in 1992. The NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability.

Grammar

Gerunds are words that are formed with verbs but act as nouns. They're very easy to spot, since every gerund is a verb with "ing" tacked to its tail. There are no exceptions to this rule.

EXAMPLES:

Acting is fun. (The gerund is the subject of the sentence.)



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Decoding The Hindu Article

Nod to extend Gram Swaraj scheme

Programme aims at improving governance of Panchayati Raj institutions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a proposal to continue the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a scheme for improving the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj institutions, till 2025-26.

The CCEA, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the extension of the scheme that ended on March 31 at a total financial outlay of ₹5,911 crore, of which ₹3,700 crore would be the Centre's share and ₹2,211 crore the share of States.

"The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh rural local bodies... to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs



Grass roots: The welfare of women is one of the focus areas of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. •RANJEET KUMAR

[Sustainable Development Goals) through inclusive local governance with a focus on optimum utilisation of available resources," a government statement said.

The statement said the scheme would work towards

"poverty-free and enhanced livelihood in villages; healthy villages, child-friendly villages; water-sufficient villages; clean and green villages; self-sufficient infrastructure in villages; socially-secure villages; villages

with good governance and engendered development in villages."

The government said panchayats would be strengthened and a spirit of healthy competition inculcated. No permanent posts would be created under the scheme but "need-based contractual human resources may be provisioned for overseeing the implementation of the scheme and providing technical support to States/UTs".

While announcing the decision to extend the scheme that started in 2018-2019, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the government's focus had been the development of rural areas which, he said, had been neglected after Partition.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Ambit	(Noun): the scope, extent, or bounds of something.	सीमा
Surety	(Noun): a person who takes responsibility for another's performance of an undertaking, for example their appearing in court or paying a debt.	ज़मानत

Static News

The Government on 24/04/2018 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day launched the restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for implementation from 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2022 with the primary aim of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with main thrust on convergence with Mission Antyodaya and emphasis on strengthening PRIs in the 117 Aspirational districts.

Grammar

The infinitive form of a verb is the verb in its basic form. An infinitive is formed from a verb but doesn't act as a verb. The infinitive form of a verb is usually (but not always) preceded by "to" (e.g., "to run," "to dance," "to think").

EXAMPLES: I need to run every day.

(The infinitive form with the word "to" is called the "full infinitive" or "to-infinitive.")



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India's Q1 imports lift trade with China to a record high

Jan.-March bilateral trade climbs 15% to \$31.96 billion; India's exports slump 26%

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

A sharp increase in India's imports of Chinese goods in the first quarter of 2022 lifted bilateral trade by 15% to a record \$31.96 billion, trade data released by China on Wednesday show.

Imports surged 28% from the year-earlier period to \$27.69 billion. India's exports, however, **slumped** 26% to \$4.87 billion.

In 2021, India's trade with China surpassed the \$100 billion mark for the first time to reach \$125 billion, driven by demand for electronic products, chemicals and auto components. India's imports accounted for a bulk of



Insatiable demand: Imports from China surged 28% in the January-March quarter to \$27.69 billion. •AFP

the trade, reaching \$97.5 billion, while exports crossed \$20 billion for the first time.

Compared with the pre-pandemic levels in 2019, first-quarter imports jumped 54%, while exports rose 9%.

The 15% increase in India-China trade was among the highest for China's major trading partners.

Overall, China's exports climbed 13.4%, the **General Administration of Customs**

(GAC) said, while imports rose 7.5%. Trade rose 9.9% with the U.S. and that with the EU grew by 10.2%.

Economists are concerned about the possible impact that the current COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns, particularly in Shanghai, may have on global supply chains as well as on China's trade performance in the current April-June quarter.

China faces "multiple challenges and risks" as well as "sudden internal and external factors" that would pose a challenge for the country's trade performance in 2022, said Li Kuiwen, spokesperson for the GAC.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Slumped	(verb): fail or decline substantially.	झुके

Static News

The total trade between China and India in 2021 stood at USD 125.66 billion, up 43.3 per cent from 2020, state-run Global Times reported, quoting data from the General Administration of Customs.

Grammar

A participle is a nonfinite verb form that has some of the characteristics and functions of both verbs and adjectives. Read the following sentence:

Hearing a loud noise, the boy woke up.

Here the word hearing qualifies the noun boy as an adjective does. It is formed from the verb hear and has an object – noise. The word hearing, therefore, has the properties of a verb and an adjective and is called a participle.



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Automobile sales slid 6% in 2021-22, says SIAM

'Chip availability immediate challenge'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Impacted by supply-side challenges, total automobile **dispatches** during the last financial year fell 6%, dragged down by lower sales of two-wheelers and entry-level cars amid rising vehicle and fuel costs, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

As per the data released by the industry body, two-wheeler sales fell by 11% to 1,34,66,412 units.

PV sales rise

Passenger vehicle sales during 2021-22 stood at 30,69,499 units, up 13%



Sales of all four segments of the auto industry are below even the 2018-19 level

from 27,11,457 units a year earlier, mainly driven by a 40% growth in sales of utility vehicles. In March 2022, however, the wholesales declined 4% to 2,79,501 units.

"Despite some recovery from a low base, sales of all four segments of the auto industry are below even the 2018-19 level," Kenichi Ayukawa, President, SIAM said.

He added that the immediate challenge for the industry in most segments is semiconductor availability.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Nudge	(Verb): prod (someone) gently with one's elbow in order to attract attention.	कुहनी से हलका धक्का
Havoc	(Noun): great confusion or disorder.	तबाही
Insurmountable	(Adjective): too great to be overcome.	अति कठिन
Persuasion	(Noun): the action or process of persuading someone or of being persuaded to do or believe something.	प्रोत्साहन

Static News

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is a not for profit apex national body representing all major vehicle and vehicular engine manufacturers in India. Mr Vinod Aggarwal is the vice-president and Mr Kenichi Ayukawa is the president.

Which country is the largest producer of semiconductors?
China leads the production of semiconductor chips in the world, according to data from the United Nations. The electronics value chain, which includes consumer electronics and ICT, has been regionalized over the years, and China has become a major global production center for microelectronics.

Grammar

Stative verbs are verbs that express a state rather than an action. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being and measurements. The stative verbs are all expressing a state: A state of doubting, a state of believing, a state of wanting. These states of being are often temporary.

EXAMPLE:

The doctor disagrees with your analysis.

(Disagree is a stative verb here, as it describes the doctor's state of being – disagreement.)

Decoding The Hindu Article

Australia beats India, takes group honours

JR. DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Top seed Australia notched a 2-1 victory against India to top group-A in the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 boys' tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

Bushan Haobam and Rushil Khosla failed to win a set in singles against Charlie Camus and Hayden Jones, but combined well to inspire confidence with a 7-5, 3-6, [10-3] victory in the doubles.

Captain Sajid Lodi pointed out that the singles matches were a lot closer than what the scores may suggest, and that the team was capable of making pro-



In good touch: Hayden Jones who came up trumps against Rushil Khosla. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

gress in the knockout stage in pursuit of one of the three qualification spots for the World Group.

In the quarterfinals, India will play the group-B topper Iran.

Australia will play Singa-

pore. In the two other quarterfinals, it will be Japan against Vietnam and Korea versus Kazakhstan.

With its second player Kim Se Hyun down with an upset stomach, Korea gave a walkover in the second sin-

gles and the doubles, after winning the first rubber through Kim Min Ho.

The results (league):

Group-A: Australia bt India 2-1 (Charlie Camus bt Bushan Haobam 6-3, 6-3; Hayden Jones bt Rushil Khosla 6-1, 7-6(4); Hayden & Hugh Winter lost to Bushan & Rushil 5-7, 6-3, [3-10]).

Pakistan bt Indonesia 2-1 (Bilal Asim bt Alhdito Kurniawan 6-2, 6-3; Huzaifa Khan bt Muhammad Djufri 6-3, 6-3; Hamid Israr & Huzaifa lost to Jaifal Kannahaya & Alhdito Kurniawan 6-3, 2-6, [5-10]).

Group-B:

Iran bt Singapore 2-1; Malaysia bt Syria 3-0.

Group-C: Kazakhstan bt Thailand 2-1; Vietnam bt Sri Lanka 2-1.

Group-D: Japan bt Hong Kong 3-0; Uzbekistan bt Korea 2-1.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Avert	(Verb): prevent or ward off (an undesirable occurrence).	टालना
Plunging	(Adjective): denoting a very low-cut neckline on a woman's garment.	जल्दी से आगे बढ़नेवाला
Impasse	(Noun): a situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement; a deadlock.	गतिरोध

Static News

Competitions were launched by the ITF in 1985 as the 16-and-under World Youth Cup, and rebranded in 2002 under the current names.

Format: Each year nations enter regional qualifying events with the winners progressing to the Finals, where they compete to be crowned champion.

The senior equivalents of the Junior Davis Cup and Junior Billie Jean King Cup are the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup, respectively.

Grammar

A transitive verb is one whose action must be used in relation to an object, also called as direct object, and when using the verb, it only makes sense if the verb is transferring action upon an object. That means the verb doesn't sound good or work on its own without an object. In other words, the action of a transitive verb is done to someone or something.

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