

India records strong 7.2% growth

India among world's fastest-expanding major economies

● Growth in financial, real estate and other services strengthened

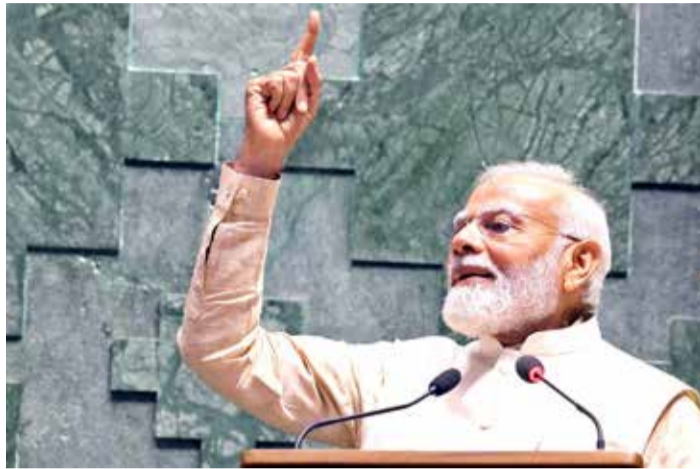
● Reserve Bank projects GDP growth 6.5% in the 2023-24

AFP | Mumbai

India's GDP grew by 7.2% in the year to March, official figures showed yesterday, boosted by services and consumption, putting it among the world's fastest-expanding major economies.

The South Asian nation is the world's fifth-largest economy, and recently surpassed China to become the most populous country.

Its growth has rebounded since the pandemic -- the economy rocketed 9.1% in the 2021-



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

22 financial year.

But like other countries, it has been buffeted by global headwinds including tightening global financial conditions, the war in Ukraine and geopolitical tensions.

India imports more than 80% of its crude, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine driving up oil

costs. But its economy grew by 6.1% in the fourth fiscal quarter from January to March compared with the same period last year, according to National Statistical Office data.

In the same period, China's economy expanded 4.5% year-on-year according to its National Bureau of Statistics, while Washington's Commerce Department said the United States grew by an anaemic 1.1%.

China is rebounding after the end of zero-Covid measures that battered business and supply chains, but is bedevilled by a host of other headaches. Meanwhile the United States is battling persistently elevated inflation, Germany is in a technical recession amid an energy crisis triggered by the Ukraine war, and Japan expanded by just 0.4% in the first quarter.

In India, growth in financial, real estate and other services strengthened from the previous year, while the manufacturing sector expanded at a much slower pace.

The quarterly and annual figures were slightly above market expectations of around 5.5% for the quarter and 7.0% for the 2022-23 financial year.

Adeeb Ahamed of LuLu Financial Holdings named as chair of FICCI Middle East Council

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Adeeb Ahamed, the Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings, has been appointed as the Chair of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Middle East Council.

As the head of LuLu Financial Holdings, Adeeb oversees a diverse portfolio of business interests spanning financial services and hospitality. His company operates in 10 countries across the Middle East, Indian sub-continent, and Asia-Pacific regions, making significant investments in India, including the NBFC LuLu Finserv and the cross-border payments company LuLu Forex. Additionally, they have luxury hospitality assets under their umbrella.

In his new role, Adeeb participated in the council's 6th meeting held in New Delhi yesterday. The gathering served as a platform for council members, including key figures such as Shailesh Pathak (Secretary General of FICCI), Goutam Ghosh (Senior Director & Regional Head, Africa, Middle East, South Asia), and Deepti Pant (Joint Director and Head, Africa, Middle East, and South Asia), to discuss burgeoning investment oppor-



Adeeb Ahamed

tunities. They also deliberated on crucial initiatives planned for the upcoming year and identified country-wise ambassadors from the business community.

The summit witnessed the presence of a delegation from the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, its Chairman. The interactive session featured Satish Sivan, the Joint Secretary of Development Partnership at the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as the Indian Consul General Designate to Dubai. A noteworthy presentation highlighted the lucrative opportunities in Oman's Oil & Gas sector, captivating the attention of attendees.

SANS Institute, Tamkeen open 3rd Cyber Reskilling Programme

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SANS Institute, the global leader in cybersecurity training and certifications, have opened the third cohort of their Cyber Reskilling Programme in Bahrain, in partnership with The Labour Fund (Tamkeen). Those interested in the programme can register as of yesterday. The registration window will close on the 19th of June 2023.

The SANS Cyber Reskilling Programme aims to identify, educate, and rapidly reskill individuals in just eight weeks, with comprehensive foundational training from the world's leading industry experts. Participants will undertake three SANS courses and achieve two GIAC certifications -- the industry-renowned GSEC and GCIA. Once they have completed the programme, successful graduates are well suited for a range of entry-level cybersecurity roles, in Security Analyst Teams, Junior Penetration Testing, Forensics, Management & Policy, and Junior Incident Response.

"We are looking forward to the third iteration of the Cyber Reskilling Programme following the engagement in and success of the first two cohorts,"



Ned Baltagi

comments Ned Baltagi, Managing Director -- Middle East, Africa, and Turkey at SANS Institute. "This programme truly bolsters students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the cybersecurity field, ensuring graduates are highly prepared and ready to make an impact."

Recruit New Cybersecurity Talent

The programme benefits cybersecurity employers in the region, too. Previous graduates of the Cyber Reskilling Programme have secured roles at established companies such as CTM360, Citibank, Gulf Air, Beyond Cyber, Y.K Almoayyed and Sons, and Zendata. Potential

employers that partner with SANS Institute on the Cyber Reskilling Programme have the opportunity to gain priority access to emerging Bahraini cybersecurity talent as well as to a host of networking sessions with SANS Certified Instructors and industry-leading cybersecurity specialists.

Baltagi says, "Employers benefit from access to our dedicated, specialist recruiter, who works with employers to connect them to the right 'reskilled' candidate, for their organizational needs."

Opportunities to Engage and Contribute

On 22 June 2023, the Cyber Reskilling Programme Career Fair will take place, where the latest cohort of graduates and employers can connect and discuss future opportunities.

The Programme

The Cyber Reskilling Programme consists of three courses: SEC275: Foundations - Computers, Technology, and Security, enabling students to develop fundamental skills and knowledge in key IT subject areas and speak the same language as industry professionals; SEC401:

Security Essentials: Network, Endpoint, and Cloud, to provide the information security skills and techniques needed to protect and secure critical IT assets, on-premises or in the cloud; and SEC504: Hacker Tools, Techniques, and Incident Handling, to equip students with the skills to conduct thorough incident response investigations.

Selection Process

Students are carefully selected through a competency-based assessment process, using the SANS CyberTalent Enhanced aptitude assessment tool. This tool is specifically developed by SANS and designed based on traits and characteristics of world-class instructors and cybersecurity professionals to assess and shortlist those with the greatest chance of success in the field.

Apply Now

The Cyber Reskilling Programme is supported by Tamkeen and interested individuals and employers will be able to apply directly via the SANS website. For more information and to register, visit website <https://www.sans.org/mlp/bahrain-academy/>

AIB names AbdulHussain winner of alBarakat May BD100,000 grand prize



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Al Baraka Islamic Bank (AIB) has announced Abdulnabi AbdulHussain as the BD100,000 Monthly Grand cash prize winner for the month of May 2023, as part of the alBarakat

Ali Al Derzi, Acting Chief Retail Officer of Al Baraka Islamic Bank, stated: "These initiatives represent our strenuous efforts to give possibilities for our customers to save money, which could have a significant impact on their life."

Abdulnabi AbdulHussain and his family expressed their

gratitude for winning the Grand Prize.

The current alBarakat scheme offers a Monthly Grand Prize of BD100,000 for one winner, in addition to weekly cash prizes of BD500 for eight winners, as well as four weekly prizes for customers who have never won in the alBarakat account. Individuals of all nationalities over the age of 18 can open an account, for those under the age of 18 by their parents or legal guardians. Institutions and companies can open their own al Barakat account with a minimum deposit of BD50.

Zain concludes data analytics accelerator programme

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Zain Bahrain (BSE: ZAINBH), recently conducted Data Analytics Accelerator Programme for its employees in collaboration with General Assembly and sponsored by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen).

The five-day training programme introduced participants to the best ways for Data Communication, Data Narratives, and Mapping in Tableau along with a final project to implement the skills learned in the programme.

Rana Al Majed, Chief Hu-



Participants during a photocall

man Resources Officer at Zain Bahrain said, "The Data Ana-

lytics Accelerator Programme in collaboration with General

Assembly and Tamkeen has enhanced employee skills in the

technology field and helped widen their scope as it is one

of Zain Bahrain's key focus areas."

Roger Lee, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer at General Assembly added, "The fact that 91% of talent leaders aren't completely confident that they will fill their technical roles is a clear indicator that the global tech talent shortage isn't going away. Employers have not only an urgent need but a responsibility to invest in giving talent the skills they need so that they themselves can survive and thrive in today's digital-first world."