

Weekly Economic Bulletin

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News Feature

Economic growth seen at around 7.5 pc in FY12: Kaushik Basu

India's economic growth in the current fiscal year ending March 2012 is expected to be around 7.5 per cent, as the growth in fourth quarter will be better than the 6.9 per cent growth logged in the second quarter, the chief economic adviser to the finance ministry said.

Kaushik Basu also said he does not rule out a small slippage in the budgeted fiscal deficit target of 4.6 per cent of GDP.

Earlier, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the economy was expected to grow 7.3 per cent in the current fiscal year, as the global financial problems have adversely affected domestic growth.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/economic-growth-seen-at-around-7-5-pc-in-fy12-kaushik-basu/articleshow/10931017.cms>

Recent policy measures by Indian government to generate growth over 3-5 years: Moody's India

At a time when the Parliament is paralysed over opposition of the Union Cabinet's approval on 51 per cent in multi-brand retail,

Moody's India has said that the recent steps taken by the government show that policy lapses are being addressed.

Moody's India is of the opinion that the recent policy initiatives would generate growth in the country over the next three-five years. However, Moody's also clarified that it saw certain political risks to policy decisions in India.

In a dampening outlook, the rating agency sees the industrial productivity slowdown spilling into the current quarter as well. India's industrial output grew at its slowest pace in two years in September, providing further evidence of deceleration in the economy and raising the odds of a pause in the central bank's 20-month-old policy tightening cycle.

Production at factories, mines and utilities grew 1.9 per cent from a year earlier in September, lower than an ownwardly revised 3.6 per cent growth a month ago.

Planning Commission Chairman, Montek Singh Ahluwalia said that the IIP numbers were disappointing and the pace of growth in the economy has slowed down. "We have to ensure that the economic recovery takes place soon," added Ahluwalia.



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Moody's has also said that tough times are ahead for the Indian economy and it may revise downwards the country's growth forecast for 2011-12 to 6.5 per cent.

"We may need to revise our 2012 growth outlook from the current rate of 7 per cent and towards something like 6.5 per cent... It looks like tough times are ahead," Moody's Analytics said in a report.

The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slipped to 6.9 per cent in the second quarter, the lowest in over two years. For the first half (April-September) of the fiscal, the average growth rate stood at 7.3 per cent.

The economic growth in 2010-11 stood at 8.5 per cent. Growth in eight core infrastructure

industries dipped to 0.1 per cent in October, the lowest in five years.

Moody's said that the economy is struggling under the weight of higher interest rates but this had failed to achieve the objective of cooling inflation, which have been above the 9 per cent mark since December last year.

RBI has already hiked its key-policy rates 13 times, totalling 350 basis points, since March 2010 to tame demand and curb inflation.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/recent-policy-measures-by-indian-government-to-generate-growth-over-3-5-years-moodys-india/articleshow/10991485.cms>

Overseas Investment

Overseas investment by Indian companies rises to \$2.74 b in November

Indian companies may be making the most of the current cheap valuation of assets overseas.

According to the Reserve Bank of India data, overseas direct investment by Indian companies has grown at a steady clip in the

financial year so far, with cumulative investments amounting to \$23.81 billion.

In the month of November, investments by Indian companies in overseas joint ventures (JV)/ wholly-owned subsidiaries (WOS) aggregated \$2.74 billion, against \$2.06 billion in the preceding month.

Among the big overseas investments in the reporting month include \$680 million equity investment by Fabindia Overseas Ltd in its UK



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JV (East Ltd); \$556 million guarantee extended by Samvardhana Motherson Polymers Ltd to its WOS in Netherlands (Samvardhana Motherson BV); and \$195 million guarantee extended by Cox & King India Ltd to its UK WOS (Prometheon Holding), according to a RBI statement.

“Cheap valuation of assets abroad coupled with weak sentiment in Western economies is driving Indian companies, especially those having export earnings, to actively seek acquisitions,” said Mr Ramesh Krishnan, Head – Treasury, Dhanlaxmi Bank.

Indian companies are seeking overseas acquisitions to diversify into new markets and get technology know-how.

In the April 2010-March 2011 period, Indian companies made investments aggregating \$43.92 billion, against \$17.98 billion in the corresponding period in the previous year.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-money-banking/article2682153.ece>

US third largest foreign direct investor in India

US Consul General in Chennai Jennifer McIntyre said through a US-India initiative called "Economic and Financial Partnership" the US Government was working with India to

develop financial instruments and public private partnership models to promote significant private capital in India.

Addressing a meeting of the Indo American Chamber of Commerce (Puducherry chapter) here on "Indo-US Economic Management", she said "like foreign direct investment, bilateral trade between US and India has increased.

United States was the third largest foreign direct investor in India with substantial investments in computer software and hardware, telecommunications, housing and real estate and construction.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/us-third-largest-foreign-direct-investor-in-india/articleshow/10991751.cms>

FX reserves at \$304.365 billion as on Nov 25

India's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$304.365 billion on Nov 25, from \$308.624 billion in the previous week, the central bank said in its weekly statistical supplement.

Changes in foreign currency assets, expressed in dollar terms, include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of other currencies held in its reserves like the euro, sterling and yen, the central bank said.



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Foreign exchange reserves include India's Reserve Tranche position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the central bank said.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/fx-reserves-at-304-365-billion-as-on-nov-25/articleshow/10957795.cms>

Finance Ministry supports plan for 26% FDI in aviation

Amidst differences within the industry, the Finance Ministry has lent its support to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotions (DIPP) on allowing foreign airlines to hold up to 26 per cent equity in domestic airlines.

Once various ministries give their views, this proposal will be sent to the Cabinet for final decision.

"We have agreed to the proposal of DIPP for allowing 26 per cent FDI by foreign airlines in domestic carriers," a senior Finance Ministry official told Business Line. On the other hand, the Civil Aviation Ministry still maintains its position of restricting the cap to 24 per cent.

The 26 per cent limit is considered to be a better option for any foreign investor as it allows veto rights in board decisions. The 24 per cent limit makes an investor an ordinary

shareholder without veto powers on the board of the airline.

At present, barring foreign airlines (direct or indirect), foreign investors can invest up to 49 per cent in any scheduled domestic airlines. Scheduled domestic airline is defined as a carrier which operates with a minimum of five aircraft and a fixed schedule.

Earlier, it was argued that foreign airlines, with stronger balance sheets, can easily outshine Indian partners. Security concerns were also raised, especially regarding foreign airlines belonging to the Gulf and African regions.

"But, the problem is, if you do not allow foreign airlines, then why would a non-airline entity invest in an airline? Now, with the pressing needs, it was thought to change the norms," another senior Government official said.

The development comes at a time when the entire Opposition and even some allies of the Government have taken a tough stand against another recent Cabinet decision – that of allowing FDI in multi-brand retail trade. But, the Government officials are optimistic that this will not be the case for aviation sector.

Domestic scheduled carriers are facing hard times and are in dire need of capital. All the three listed domestic carriers – Jet Airways,



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Kingfisher and SpiceJet – posted losses in the second quarter ending September 30.

Market leader Jet Airways is opposing FDI by foreign airlines in domestic carriers, while Kingfisher is lobbying hard for the move. Even low-cost leader Indigo is believed to be not in favour of the move.

On the other hand, five international carriers – Emirates, Etihad, Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines and Air Asia – are keeping a close watch on the development. All have a strong interest in the Indian market.

Mr Paresh Parekh, Tax Partner, Ernst & Young said, “Some domestic airlines seem to be in need of funds for their operations and for service upgradation. Permitting FDI from foreign airlines could provide them more options to raise long-term capital/equity capital. From foreign airlines' perspective, this could provide them an opportunity to make strategic investments in domestic airlines.”

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/article2682099.ece>

Trade News

Exports to Canada in Jan-Aug up 32% at \$1.7 bn

India's exports to Canada rose by 32% to \$1.69 billion in the first eight months of the current calendar year, according to Statistics Canada.

The country's exports to the North American nation stood at \$1.28 billion in January-August, 2010, data from Statistics Canada -- Canada's national statistical agency -- said.

India exports organic chemicals, knit and woven apparel, precious stones and metals, electronics and machinery to Canada.

According to the data, bilateral trade between India and Canada grew by 21% to \$3.09 billion in the January-August period of 2011 from \$2.55 billion in January-August, 2010.

India's inbound shipments from Canada rose by 12% to \$1.40 billion in January-August, 2011, from \$1.25 billion in the year-ago period.

India imports vegetables, fertilisers, machinery and wood pulp from Canada.

Both the countries are aiming to increase bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2015 from \$4.2 billion in 2010.



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The two countries have identified higher education, agriculture and agri-foods, infrastructure, information and communications technologies, extractive industries, life sciences and enabling services as thrust areas for cooperation.

Sectors like science and technology, innovation, clean technology and renewable energy are some of the other priority areas.

<http://businessstandard.com/india/news/exports-to-canada-in-jan-aug32-at-17-bn/152258/on>

Africa-India Economic Mission in Hyderabad

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and EMRC International, Brussels, are partnering once again for the second edition of the Africa-

India Economic Mission to be held in Hyderabad during December 11-16.

The 5-day event will facilitate access to India's leading institutes and foremost agricultural equipment, irrigation and crop corporations, providing a basis for potential business ties, with a focus on public-private partnerships.

India's agricultural landscape is as varied as that of Africa.

Like Africa, a significant proportion of India falls under the semi-arid climate, which is characterised by highly variable and low rainfall and soils with low productivity.

This calls for watershed management and grain innovation.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-others/tp-states/article2682163.ece>

Sectoral News

India's agri output to rise 5.7% on good weather, says FAO

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has forecast India's grain output to remain substantial higher because of favourable climatic condition. The agency estimates India's overall cereal output

this year to rise by 5.7 per cent to 228.6 million tonnes (mt).

While rice output is estimated to rise by over eight per cent to surpass the benchmark 100-mt mark and settle at a record 103 mt, the extended rainfall during October and November in the major growing states in the north has brightened wheat crop prospects



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for the rabi season.

According to the latest estimate by the ministry of agriculture, total rice output in the country may rise to 87.10 mt this kharif season as compared to 80.65 mt in the same season last year. Kharif crop contributes around 85 per cent of India's rice output. Climatic condition is favourable for the rabi season also.

In September, India lifted the restriction on regular rice exports it had maintained for four years, initially authorising shipment of 2 mt of privately-owned rice, in addition to basmati rice. As a result, around 5 mt of world trade could be sourced from India next year, about 1.5 mt more than forecast for 2011.

Meanwhile, international rice prices have resumed an upward trend since June, reflecting first a tightening of the market and, subsequently, the announcement of a new price policy by Thailand, plus concerns about the effects of the Southeast Asia floods on export availability and shipping logistics. India's relaxation of its export ban on regular rice has contributed to dampening the upward pressure on world prices in October.

FAO estimates, therefore, wheat output to rise by 4.3 per cent to settle at 84.3 mt in 2011, as compared to 80.8 mt in the previous year. Wheat is a 100 per cent rabi crop. Since, the extended rainfall set an adequate soil

moisture for rabi season, the wheat output is estimated to remain bumper this year.

Maize and oilseeds output is expected to remain higher this year at two per cent and 5.1 per cent to 20.6 mt and 39.4 mt, respectively.

Sugar output is expected to increase over the 2011-12 marketing season, mostly driven by strong growth in cane output. Record sugarcane prices in 2009 encouraged farmers to plant additional areas to sugarcane and boost input use. Being a perennial crop, the bulk of the cane harvest should be realised this season.

After being the main driver of growth in world trade in 2009-10, India imported about 1 mt in 2010-11, down by 83 per cent from 2009-10 and, because of high production expected for the new season, the country is not anticipated to require any import in 2011-12.

India's milk output is expected to witness a rise of 5 mt to 121.7 mt, FAO said. Rising domestic demand is the main engine stimulating the growth in the country, as India is largely absent from the international market for dairy products.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/indias-agri-output-to-rise-57good-weather-says-fao/457465/>



Food processing ministry to set up collection, distribution centres in 12th Plan

The Union Ministry of Food Processing in the XII Five Year Plan plans to give emphasis on improving supply chain by creating large primary collection and distribution centres throughout the country involving private sector.

Addressing the 'Bounteous Karnataka' global agri-business and food processing summit 2011 in Bangalore, Mr Rakesh Kacker, Secretary to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, said, "During the XI Five Year Plan, we gave emphasis on creating infrastructure, now the time has come to improve supply chain efficiencies, it is here we plan to create collection and distribution centres."

"To achieve this, we plan to make Karnataka a model State for the State has food parks, cold chains and modern abettors," he added.

The central government is also planning to involve State governments to implement some food processing projects which benefit both the farmers and consumers.

"For effective implementation and monitoring of projects, we plan to involve State governments, here Karnataka can take advantage," he mentioned.

Dr S. Ayyappan, Director General (ICAR) & Secretary (DARE) in his address said "For the XII Five Year Plan, we plan to focus on human resources development and already discussions are underway to make 'Students Ready' by involving agriculture universities and 'Farmers First', where in students as part of the course have to spend 25 per cent of their time with farmers".

"This is being done to help farmers for they need experts to guide and equip them with timely farm technology or knowledge," he added.

"About 10 incubators related to agriculture are planned in the country to give major push to farm level innovation. In Karnataka, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Dharwad are being included. This is expected to give a push in developing low cost farm technologies in the State," he added.

As skill building exercise, ICAR is planning to use ICT to create Virtual Krishi Vigyan Kendra (VKVK) network in the country. The VKVK platform expects to connect all KVKs with farmers through internet and mobile technology.

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/agri-biz/article2678082.ece?homepage=true&ref=wl_home



Soon, domain names in all 22 Indian languages

By mid-2012, vernacular domain names in all 22 Indian languages may secure the approval of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

By the end of this year, the central government would approach ICANN for internationalised domain names in seven additional Indian languages. These are Sindhi, Kashmiri, Kannada, Oriya, Malayalam, Manipuri and Assamese.

Internationalised domain names (IDNs) include characters other than the letters of the basic Latin alphabet (A-Z). Domain names are entered in the browser's address bar to access any website. ICANN allows domain names to be used by a country's or a territory's internet community. This means instead of a two-letter country code in Latin characters (like .in and .uk), the IDN country code top level domains can use the country's official language. So, .bharat can be used in Devnagiri script or any other Indian language script.

"Once we get ICANN's approval, the central government, along with the department of information technology and Nixi, would look into the applications and usage of domain names in the local languages. Getting the

ICANN's approval is just the first step. After this, we would need the required infrastructure and administrative experience," said Mahesh Kulkarni, associate director and head of the department, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing's (CDAC) graphics and intelligent script technology.

Kulkarni said roll-out of all the 22 languages would not happen immediately. "We would like to gather experience before we roll out all the language domain names," he said.

Domain names are divided into two segments — generic top level domains (gTLDs) and country code top level domains (ccTLDs). The gTLD segment accounts for domain names like .com, .net, .org, and .info, while ccTLDs are country specific like .in (India), .de (Germany) and .uk (UK).

According to the Internet and Mobile Association of India, the country is expected to have 121 million internet users by the end of this year. Currently, India has 100 million users, of which 97 million are active users. Many analysts feel the availability of local language domain names would help get people hooked to the web.

CDAC, the department of information technology and state governments have been conducting workshops to spread awareness about the use of local IDNs. "Workshops are



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crucial to the success of the IDN initiative for Indian languages,” said Tulika Pandey, additional director, e-infrastructure division, department of information technology.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/soon-domain-names-in-all-22-indian-languages/457083/>

National Bio Energy Mission soon: Farooq

A National Bio Energy Mission is being developed to push sustainable development of the renewable energy sector, Mr Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), said. He was addressing the Bio Energy summit organised by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

“Grid parity among States is not equal and connectivity to remote locations is a major issue. The Ministry wants industry to bring innovative new technologies that would empower rural areas,” he said.

Mr G.B. Pradhan, Secretary, MNRE, said the most critical aspect in promoting bio energy projects was the associated business model, which should be sustainable. Mr K Krishnan, Chairman, CII Task Force on Bio-Energy, pointed to hybrid solutions that combine bio energy with solar, wind and hydro as promising sustainable solutions.

The CII recommended rationalising the pricing of fuels and tariffs to reflect the economic cost of supply, reduce cross subsidies and flexibility to capture changing fuel prices in a competitive market.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-economy/article2672463.ece>

Organised food services industry attracts Rs 500cr from PEs

Private equity firms invested Rs 500 crore in the organised food services industry in the first half of this year and the sector is expected to see more such investment in the future, industry body Assocham said.

The organised food services industry has grown to a size of Rs 80,000 crore, driven by rapid urbanisation, growing disposable incomes and need for convenience.

The chamber said food services industry is likely to become one of the fastest growing industry in the country driven by rapid urbanisation, growing disposable incomes and need for convenience.

“The industry is likely to become one of the fastest growing industries in coming years...This has triggered interest among private equity investors who made investments worth Rs 500 crore in the first half of 2011. More such investments are



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expected going forward due to rising consumer appetite," Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Secretary General DS Rawat said.

In 2010, the sales of 20 largest private retail chains had 50 per cent contribution from food items with sales of Rs 12,500 crore. This amounts to five to six per cent of the urban food retail market compared to only one per cent six years ago.

The chamber said while the market size is small, it has been growing rapidly. By 2020, the share of supermarkets in food retail in cities is expected to touch 20 to 30 per cent. The advent of multi-brand retail is likely to accelerate this growth.

India is among the world's major food producers and ranks as the largest in production of livestock, milk and cereals, the second largest in fruits and vegetable products, and among the top five in rice, wheat, groundnuts, tea, coffee, tobacco, spices, sugar and oilseeds.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/organised-food-services-industry-attracts-rs-500cr-from-pes/articleshow/10959598.cms>

Fuel exports likely to touch 70 million tonnes by 2014

India's fuel exports are likely to touch about

70 million tonnes by 2014, a government statement said, compared to 50 million tonnes in the financial year ending March 2011.

India's fuel exports will rise as the country has been expanding its refining capacity which is expected to rise 20 percent to about 4.65 million barrels per day at the end of the current fiscal year in March.

India has a surplus refining capacity but it still imports fuel as private firms, controlling over a third of current capacity, prefer to export.

"With Africa's economic development picking up momentum and its energy demand increasing, India is poised to become a dependable supplier of petroleum products to Africa," the government statement ahead of an India-Africa Hydrocarbon summit this week.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/fuel-exports-likely-to-touch-70-million-tonnes-by-2014/articleshow/10990794.cms>

'Power sector has potential to create 6 lakh jobs in 2012-17'

The country's fast growing power sector has the potential to create as many as six lakh jobs during the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2012-17), a top government official said.



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The power sector, vital for good economic growth, is projected to see a capacity addition of about 1,00,000 MW during 2012-17 period.

"... to set up about 1,00,000 MW, we need about two lakh people for construction of power plants.

"For operation and maintenance, generation transmission and distribution, there are employment opportunities of four lakh people during the 12th Five-Year Plan," Power Secretary P Uma Shankar said.

He was speaking at 27th Skoch Summit.

According to Uma Shankar, there is an estimated requirement of four lakh technical persons for the power sector during the 13th

Five-Year Plan period (2018-22).

However, he noted that employment potential in the power sector is going to come down in the future due to automation and technical upgradation.

India has embarked on massive capacity addition plans in the power sector, which is expected to require about USD 300-400 billion investment during the 12th Five-Year Plan.

Presently, the country has an installed power generation capacity of over 1,60,000 MW.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/power-sector-has-potential-to-create-6-lakh-jobs-in-201217/881992/0>

News Round-Up

India continues to be attractive for foreign investors: E&Y report

Indian economy has successfully weathered the global financial crisis, thereby proving its resilience and depth, suggests an Ernst & Young report titled, 'Doing business in India'.

The report explores India's key sectors, investment climate, funding scenario, laws and regulations, to aid companies that are doing, or plan to do business in India.

The study highlights that India is the second most preferred destination for foreign investors, next only to China which leads the chart.

FDI inflows in India from FY'05 to FY'11 has risen 31.5 percent reaching a figure of Rs 88,500 crore. Mauritius continues to be the largest source of FDI inflows into India, with the leading contribution of 36%. Services sector is attracting the maximum FDI with a figure of 18 percent, followed by



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telecommunications (8%) and automobiles (7%).

The report highlights that the aerospace and defence industry is an emerging market in India, with the Indian military expected to spend roughly US\$ 80 billion, over the next four-to-five years. About 65–70% of India's defence requirement is imported from global aerospace and defence companies.

Automotive is another profitable sector in India for foreign investors, as it is expected that by 2020, the vehicle production is set to treble from the levels in 2009 and the size of the component sector is set to grow from \$30 billion to 110b. Banking is another key sector where the aggregate limit for all foreign institutional investors (FIIs) is restricted to 24%, which can be raised to 49% with the approval of the board/general body.

According to Gaurav Karnik, Tax Partner, Ernst & Young, "Over the past few years India's average growth in GDP has ranged between 6 to 8%, which is inspiring to say the least. Despite the current global economic uncertainty, India's GDP is expected to grow at 7.7%, which clearly underlines India's potential as an investment destination.

The fact that FDI has increased by 31.5% across major sectors further evidences the attractiveness of the Indian economy. India has a liberalised FDI policy and recent

announcement of liberalisation of FDI in multi and singlebrand retail, showcases the Government's endeavour to continue to open up India for foreign investors."

The report further suggests that foreign investors should not miss out on Indian healthcare industry, which has evolved tremendously over the years. Indian domestic pharmaceutical market size stood at \$12.76b in 2010 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 9.5%, till 2015. While, medical equipment and supplies market, during 2010, was estimated at \$3.6b and is expected to reach \$ 6.41b by 2014 with CAGR of approximately 15.5%.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/article2665739.ece?homepage=true>

India remains world's top recipient of remittances

For the fourth straight year, India has narrowly edged out China to emerge as the world's top recipient of officially recorded remittances. According to the latest issue of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief released and contained estimates for 2011 remittances, India is expected to receive \$58 billion this year, followed by \$57 billion flowing to China, and \$24 billion to Mexico.

Worldwide remittances, including those to



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high-income countries, will reach \$406 billion in 2011, of which \$351 billion will flow into developing countries. “Despite the global economic crisis that has impacted private capital flows, remittance flows to developing countries have remained resilient, posting an estimated growth of eight per cent in 2011,” said Hans Timmer, Director of the Bank’s Development Prospects Group, in a release sent by the World Bank. “Remittance flows to all developing regions have grown this year, for the first time since the financial crisis.”

Remittance flows to South Asia grew by a faster-than-expected 10 per cent, while the Middle East and North Africa saw the slowest growth rate among developing regions, of 2.6 per cent, due to unrest related to the Arab Spring. The bank expects continued growth in global remittance flows in the coming years, of 7.3 per cent in 2012, 7.9 per cent in 2013 and 8.4 per cent in 2014.

According to the brief, high oil prices helped provide a cushion for remittances to South Asia from the Gulf Cooperation Council or GCC countries this year. A depreciation of currencies in large migrant-exporting countries like India, Bangladesh and Mexico also contributed to the rise in remittances.

However, the report noted that persistent

unemployment in Europe and the United States was affecting employment prospects of existing migrants and hardening political attitudes toward new immigration in those regions.

The bank says remittance flows would benefit if the global community achieves the “5 by 5” objective agreed to by the G8 and G20 nations, of reducing global average remittance costs by 5 percentage points in 5 years. Remittance costs have fallen steadily from 8.8 per cent in 2008 to 7.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2011 due to increasing competition in large volume remittance corridors such as UAE-India.

India’s inward remittances have grown from \$13 billion in 2000 to \$58 billion this year, while remittances to China have jumped from \$5 billion to \$57 billion during the same period. The share of remittances in China’s GDP is just under one per cent, while the inflows made up three per cent of India’s GDP last year.

Other large recipients of remittances this year include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Vietnam and Egypt.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/india-remains-worlds-top-recipientremittances/457316/>



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