

India's bioeconomy reaches USD 151 bn

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

INDIA'S bioeconomy has experienced significant growth, reaching a valuation of USD 151 billion by the end of 2023, according to a new report, which said that the surge highlights the bioeconomy's critical role in national development, contributing 4.25 per cent to the country's GDP and positioning India among the top five global bioeconomies.

The report, prepared by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), outlines



transformative advances across biotechnology, agricultural innovation, healthcare, and biomanufacturing, driving the sector's expansion. It was released during a session at the Global Bio-India Summit 2024. The report said that India's bioeconomy has experienced

significant growth, reaching a valuation of USD 151 billion by the end of 2023.

"This surge highlights the bioeconomy's critical role in national development, contributing 4.25 per cent to the country's GDP and positioning India among the top five global bioeconomies," it

said. One of the major drivers of this growth has been the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy, the report said, noting that the policy focuses on bio-based chemicals, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, and advanced research in marine and space technologies. Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary DBT, Chairman BIRAC & DG-BRIC said the India bioeconomy report 2024, launched at the 4th edition of Global Bio India, marks a pivotal moment in India's journey to becoming a global leader in biotechnology.

Govt unveils Rs 2,000cr initiative to enhance weather forecasting

■ Delhi Bureau & Agencies

NEW DELHI, Sept 13

INDIA will add around 70 new Doppler radars under Mission Mausam with the aim of predicting weather up to the panchayat level and improving short- to medium-range forecast accuracy by five to 10 per cent, officials said.

At a press conference, M Ravichandran, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said the five-year mission would be implemented in two phases.

The first phase, running until March 2026, will focus on expanding the observation network, including the addition of around 70 Doppler radars and 10 wind

profilers. The Union Cabinet approved the mission on Wednesday, allocating Rs 2,000 crore for the first phase, which also includes setting up of a "cloud chamber" at the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology to study physical processes within clouds. "During the first phase, 60 to 70 new radars will be installed in 18 months. We already have 39 Doppler radars functioning. Ten wind profilers and 10 radio metres will also be set up," Ravichandran said.

"We will also conduct an Observing System Simulation Experiment (OSSE) in the first phase, which will help determine the number of observations needed moving forward," he said.

Kejriwal gets bail, walks out of Tihar



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal acknowledges supporters amid rainfall after walking out of the Tihar Jail in New Delhi on Friday. (PTI)

Kejriwal cannot visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat and not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the LG's sanction

NEW DELHI, Sept 15 (PTI)

THE Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the Excise Policy 'scam', saying prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted the relief to Kejriwal on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 10 lakh, and two sureties of like amount.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED in the Excise Policy case on March 21, was granted interim bail on May 10 for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls and has been in jail since June 2 when he surrendered.

Will continue to fight anti-national forces, says Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal as he walks out of jail in Excise Policy corruption case

The top court directed Kejriwal not to make any public comment on the merits of the case and added that terms and conditions as imposed in the ED case would also be applicable here.

The top court, while granting him bail in the ED case, had said that Kejriwal cannot visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat and not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction.

It said completion of trial was unlikely to occur in the immediate future and rejected the apprehension of tampering by Kejriwal.

In his first remarks after being released from the Tihar Jail, Kejriwal said he will continue to fight "anti-national" forces

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SC again compares CBI to 'caged parrot'

NEW DELHI, Sept 15 (PTI)

OBSERVING that Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI in the Excise policy case was unjustified, Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Friday slammed the agency, and said it must dispel the notion of being a caged parrot. A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted him bail in the case.

Writing a separate concurring judgement granting bail to the AAP supremo, Justice Bhuyan questioned the timing of Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI and said its aim was to frustrate the grant of bail to him in the Enforcement Directorate case.

(Contd on page 5)

India conducts successful field trials of light tank Zorawar

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

INDIA on Friday successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the light tank, Zorawar, a highly versatile platform being developed to boost the Army's combat capabilities along the frontier with China.

The tank demonstrated "exceptional" performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives during the field trials conducted in desert terrain, the Defence Ministry said.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the L&T Defence are developing the air-transportable 25-tonne tank that has been designed for rapid



deployment largely along the frontier with China.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the successful trials of the Indian light tank as a "significant milestone" towards India's goal of self-reliance in critical defence systems and technologies.

"The DRDO on September 13 successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian light Tank,

Zorawar, a highly versatile platform capable of deployment in high-altitude areas," the Ministry said. "During the field trials conducted in the desert terrain, the Light Tank demonstrated exceptional performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives," it said.

"In the initial phase, the tank's firing performance was rigorously evaluated and it achieved the required accuracy on designated targets," it added.

The Indian Army is looking at deploying over 350 light tanks, mostly in the mountainous border areas, they said.

The development of Zorawar is seen to be aimed at countering China's deployment of tanks of the same categories.

Biden to host QUAD summit at his Delaware residence next weekend

■ Prime Minister Modi along with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese PM Kishida Fumio of to attend the summit

■ **By Lalit K Jha**

WASHINGTON, Sept 13 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden will host the fourth in-person Quad leaders summit at his Delaware residence next week, in a rare gesture for his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan, a presidential spokesperson announced Thursday.

India, which was scheduled to host QUAD this year, would host the summit next year. QUAD leadership summit is an

initiative of Biden and is one of the key foreign policy legacies for the outgoing American President.

“President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Will host the fourth in-person Quad Leaders Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday, September 21. The President looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

of India, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan,” White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. “This will be President Biden’s first time hosting foreign leaders in Wilmington as President—a reflection

of his deep personal relationships with each of the Quad Leaders, and the importance of the Quad to all of our countries,” she said.



India test-fires two surface to air missiles in 2 days successfully



(Combo Picture) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy achieve back-to-back success with 2nd consecutive flight test of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, on Friday. (ANI)

BALASORE (Odisha), Sept 13 (PTI)

INDIA on Friday successfully test-fired the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VLSRSAM) for the second consecutive day from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur on the Odisha coast, defence sources said.

A statement from the Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO) confirmed that both tests on September 12 and 13 were successful.

“In both the tests, the missile successfully intercepted a high-speed low altitude aerial target mimicking sea skimming aerial target,” the statement said.

The missile showcased its precision and capability to neutralise targets, the statement said.