

India's unemployment rate to decline 97 basis points by 2028: ORF Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (PTI)

INDIA'S unemployment rate is likely to decline by as much as 97 basis points by 2028 as the country's economy hits the USD 5 trillion mark, fuelling a rise in employment, a new report said on Tuesday.

Unemployment rate -- the percentage of people in the

labour force who are without jobs -- is projected to fall from 4.47 per cent in 2024 to 3.68 per cent in 2028, the India Employment Outlook 2030 report by thinktank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) said. "India's job market is experiencing a transformation as the country has become the world's fastest growing large

economy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic," the report said.

The country's young population, whose median age is 28.4 years, holds a key to fuelling economic expansion.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) size is estimated at just under USD 4 trillion in 2024.

'Israel seeking temporary truce agreement in Gaza'

GAZA, Apr 16 (IANS)

ISRAEL is seeking a ceasefire agreement with Hamas to secure the release of its hostages before resuming military operations in the Gaza Strip, Ezzat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, has said. Al-Rishq said that Israel wanted "a temporary agreement to release its prisoners, in order to resume war and extermination thereafter."

Noting that the attempts by

Israel to release its hostages "by force have failed", the Hamas official stressed that "there is no alternative to a real deal with the resistance."

He emphasised that a permanent cessation of firing is the only guarantee to protect the Palestinian people "and to stop the bloodshed and massacres," adding that Hamas adheres to its position represented by the complete withdrawal of Israeli army and return of displaced persons to their homes freely.

China's eco expands 5.3% in first quarter

Beijing: China's economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter, data showed on Tuesday, offering some relief to officials as they try to shore up growth in the face of protracted weakness in the property sector and mounting local govt debt.

However, several March indicators released alongside the GDP data showed that demand at home remains frail, weighing on overall momentum. The world's second-largest economy grew 5.3% in Jan-March from the year earlier, official data showed, comfortably above a 4.6% analysts' forecast in a poll and up from the 5.2% expansion in the previous quarter. On a quarterly basis, growth picked up to 1.6% from 1.4% in the previous three months.

"The strong growth figure goes a long way in achieving China's around 5% target for the year," said Harry Murphy Cruise, economist at Moody's Analytics. REUTERS

India allows onion ~~EXPORT~~ to Sri Lanka, gives addl quota to UAE

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (ANI)

INDIA has allowed a limited quantity of onion exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Sri Lanka, at a time when the staple vegetable's outward shipments have been kept under restrictions.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), issued a notification late Monday evening, permitting the export of an



additional 10,000 metric tonnes (MT) of onions to the UAE (above 24,000 tonne already allowed) and 10,000 tonne to Sri Lanka, facilitated through the National Cooperative Exports Limited

(NCEL). In March, the Centre allowed the export of 50,000 tonne onions to Bangladesh. The Government has extended the ban on the export of onions until further orders.

Initially, India had in early December 2023 prohibited the export of onions till March 2024. The DGFT notification said the export of onions will be, however, allowed based on permission granted by the Central Government to other countries.

Israel launches **'DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE'** against Iran

Calls for sanctions to be imposed on Iran's missile programme, IRGC

TEL AVIV, Apr 16 (IANS/DPA)

ISRAEL'S Foreign Minister Israel Katz has launched what he called a "diplomatic offensive" against Iran following the major Iranian attack on Israel.



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to be declared terrorist organisation

"This morning I sent letters to 32 countries and spoke with dozens of foreign ministers and leading figures around the world," Katz wrote on Tuesday on the X platform.

(Contd on page 3)