

# Tomatoes stoke fresh fears of food inflation spike this month

Price rise in vegetables had hit a 14-month high of 36% in September, lifting food inflation for consumers to 9.2%; with mandi arrivals of tomatoes shrinking and festive fervour fuelling demand, prices are beginning to pinch households again

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Last Tuesday, Umakant, a vegetable seller in South Delhi's Prakash Mohalla, who buys his stocks from the Okhla Mandi, witnessed many potential buyers turn away, as prices of many vegetables, had risen sharply, led by a spike in prices of tomatoes that he was selling at ₹120 per kg.

Retail tomato prices had jumped 233% in July relative to June, but eased about 23% in August, bringing some relief. However, the excess rainfall in September has sparked a fresh challenge with Mandi arrivals more than halving from August.

On a year-on-year basis, vegetable inflation shot up to a 14-month high of 36% in September. For toma-

## Why are tomato prices rising?

A combination of decline in sowing and unusually high rainfall in late September meant mandi arrivals of tomato fell sharply in October. Due to the demand-supply mismatch, wholesale and retail prices of tomatoes skyrocketed, with the prices relatively higher in northern and eastern regions of India. By Nitika Francis and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

**Chart 1: Sowing declines**

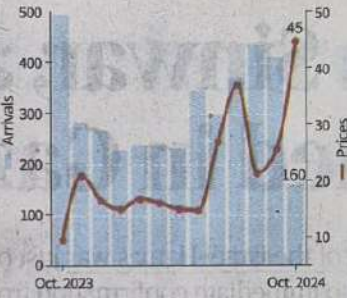
Area (in lakh hectares) of tomato crop sown in the current and last year on various dates



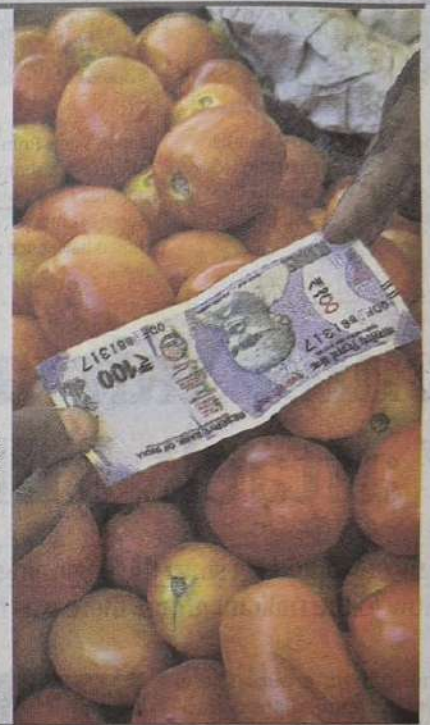
Sowing of tomato declined this year. As of Oct. 4, 2.44 lakh hectares (lha) was sown, 0.2 lha less than last year and 0.49 lha less than the target.

**Chart 3: Arrivals decline**

Arrivals of tomatoes across all mandis (in crore kgs) and modal prices (in ₹/kg)



Arrivals drastically declined in October (36% y-o-y), leading to a surge in mandi prices (modal value) touching ₹45/kg.



November 1-5

June 1-5

July 3-9

August 7-13

September 4-10



# Chief Justice Chandrachud recommends Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recommended Justice Sanjiv Khanna for appointment as the 51st Chief Justice of India. Chief Justice Chandrachud will retire on November 10.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court judges, the Law Ministry seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice about the next appointment. The letter from the government kick-starts the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India.

Justice Khanna is the next in line in accordance with the seniority norm. He enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.

He initially practised in the district courts and later in the High Court of Delhi in various fields of law, including constitutional law, direct taxation, arbitration, commercial law, company law, land law, environmental law, and medical negligence.

Justice Khanna was a se-



**Judicial handover:** Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud with Justice Sanjiv Khanna. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nior standing counsel for the Income Tax Department. He had functioned as a standing counsel for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and appeared as an Additional Public Prosecutor and *amicus curiae* in the High Court.

He was elevated as an Additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 2019.

Justice Khanna was ranked 33 in the combined seniority of High Court judges on an all-India ba-

sis. However, the then Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had recommended him over others on grounds of merit and integrity.

Justice Khanna had led the Supreme Court which gave interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to campaign in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He was also a member of the Constitution Bench which upheld the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K.

Justice Khanna is due to retire on May 13, 2025.



# Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for Hasina

Rabiul Alam *Temp*

DHAKA

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), established by ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in 2010, has issued arrest warrants against her, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, and 44 others. These warrants are in connection with alleged crimes against humanity committed during the July-August 2024 protests, which led to the downfall of the Hasina government.

The tribunal, chaired by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, issued the orders following two petitions filed by the prosecution seeking the arrest of Ms. Hasina and other key political figures. The tribunal also directed the auth-



Sheikh Hasina

orities to arrest the 46 individuals, and present them before the court by November 18. "We appealed to the court because the accused in these cases are extremely influential," Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said. "Without their arrest, conducting a fair investigation would be incredibly difficult."

The prosecutor also informed that many of the accused continue to hold

important positions within the state, which is why the tribunal has not fully disclosed their identities. However, sources indicate that former Ministers Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Hasan Mahmud, and Anisul Huq are among the 46 individuals.

The ICT was reconstituted on October 14, with Justice Mortuza appointed as chairman. The restructuring aims to expedite trials related to "crimes against humanity committed" during the July-August protests. The protests saw at least 753 people killed and thousands injured. More than 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Ms. Hasina and other senior Awami League leaders with the ICT's investigation agency.





## Agartala-Lokmanya Tilak Express derailed in Assam

Eight coaches of the Agartala-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express derailed at Dibalong station near Lumding in Assam's Dima Hasao district on Thursday afternoon. "The incident occurred at 3.55 p.m. and there has been no major casualty or injury," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on X. The derailed coaches include the power car and the engine of the train. The cause of the derailment is yet to be ascertained. Officials said that running of trains on the Lumding-Badarpur single-line hill section have been temporarily suspended. Helpline numbers at Lumding are 03674263120 and 03674263126, the officials added.



# Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar, architect of Oct. 7 attack, killed in Gaza: Israel

Sinwar had topped Israel's most wanted list since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war just over a year ago, and his killing strikes a powerful blow to the militant group; there was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of his death

Associated Press  
JERUSALEM

Israeli forces in Gaza killed Hamas's top leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year's attack on Israel that sparked the war, the military said on Thursday. Troops appeared to have run across him in a battle, only to discover afterwards that a body in the rubble was the man Israel has hunted for more than a year.

Sinwar had topped Israel's most wanted list since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war just over a year ago, and his killing strikes a powerful blow to

the militant group. There was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of his death.

The military confirmed Sinwar's death after conducting DNA tests on a body it said was among three militants killed on Wednesday during operations in Gaza. Foreign Minister Israel Katz called Sinwar's killing a "military and moral achievement for the Israeli Army," saying it would "create the possibility to immediately release the hostages".

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant addressed Hamas fighters, saying it "is time to go out, release the hostages, raise your hands,



**Major stake:** Yahya Sinwar had been Hamas's top leader inside the Gaza Strip for years, closely connected to its military wing. AFP

surrender".

Sinwar was one of the chief architects of Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and Israel had vowed to kill him since the beginning of its retaliatory

campaign in Gaza. He had been Hamas's top leader inside the Gaza Strip for years, closely connected to its military wing while dramatically building up its capabilities.

An Israeli security official said it appeared that the man who turned out to be Sinwar was killed in a battle, not in a planned targeted air strike.

Photos circulating online showed the body of a man resembling Sinwar with a gaping head wound, dressed in a military-style vest, half buried in the rubble of a destroyed building. The security official confirmed the photos were taken by Israeli security officials at the scene.

The report of his death came as Israeli forces continued major air and ground assault in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza.



# SC upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act as valid law

Constitution Bench gives the ruling in a 4:1 majority judgment; the Section says people from Bangladesh who arrived in Assam prior to January 1, 1966, would be deemed to be Indian citizens

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

**A** Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a 4:1 majority judgment on Thursday, upheld the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which permits immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Assam to secure Indian citizenship. The court held it as a valid piece of legislation aligned to the preambular value of fraternity.

The principle of fraternity cannot be selectively applied to one section living in Assam while another lot are labelled "illegal immigrants", Justice Surya Kant, who authored the lead opinion for the five-judge Bench, observed.

"Our reading of the Constitution and precedents is

Section 6A was included with the objective of reducing the influx of migrants... The Assam Accord was a political solution to the issue of growing migration and Section 6A was a legislative solution.

CHIEF JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD



A nation can accommodate immigrants and refugees, while simultaneously prioritising sustainable development and equitable allocation of resources.

JUSTICE SURYA KANT

that fraternity requires people of different backgrounds and social circumstances to 'live and let live'... When faced with the dilemma of disenfranchising millions or safeguarding a community's endogenous way of life, this court would certainly be compelled by the principles of fraternity to prioritise the

former," he observed.

Section 6A, which traces its roots to the political solution of Assam Accord of 1985, mandates that immigrants who entered Assam from Bangladesh prior to January 1, 1966, would be deemed to be Indian citizens. Those who entered the State between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971,

would be conferred citizenship based on the fulfilment of specific procedures and conditions. The Section, however barred citizenship to those who entered Assam after March 25, 1971.

## 'Migration a burden'

Justice Kant, in his opinion shared with Justices M.M. Sundresh and Manoj Misra, however said incessant migration from Bangladesh was indeed a burden on Assam.

But the blame for it could not be attributed to Section 6A alone. A large part of the fault lay with the government's failure to timely detect and deport the post-1971 immigrants from Bangladesh, he said.

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# India poised to be 3rd largest global economy by 2030: S&P

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (PTI)

INDIA is poised to be the third largest global economy by 2030 but rising population presents mounting challenges in basic service coverage and growing investment needs to maintain productivity, S&P Global Ratings said on Thursday.

It said emerging economies have high ambitions for the next decade and beyond with India aiming to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, from the current USD 3.6 trillion. India is currently the fifth largest economy.

"India is poised to be the fastest-growing major economy over the next three years and the third largest globally by 2030. Its 2024 entry into JP Morgan's Government Emerging Market Bond Index could provide additional government funding and unlock significant resources in domestic capital markets. This is only



a first step -- investors will continue looking for improved market access and settlement procedures," S&P said.

In its report titled 'Look forward Emerging Markets: A decisive decade', S&P said emerging markets will play a crucial role in shaping the global economy over the next decade, averaging 4.06 per cent GDP growth through 2035, compared to 1.59 per cent for advanced economies.

By 2035, emerging markets will contribute about 65 per

cent of global economic growth. This growth will be driven mainly by emerging economies in Asia-Pacific, including China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines.

"Also by 2035, India will be cemented as the world's third-largest economy, with Indonesia and Brazil ranking eighth and ninth, respectively," S&P said.

India, it said, has also taken measures to improve its weak fiscal flexibility by boosting its capital expenditure, further

supporting long-term growth.

But population challenges are meaningful, with the country expected to have the world's largest population by 2035. This presents mounting challenges in basic service coverage and growing investment needs to maintain productivity, S&P said. Stating that India is positioned to grow its economy in the next decade, the US-based agency said as the next decade approaches, the economic trajectory of emerging markets will likely be heavily influenced by their governments' design and execution of long-term growth strategies.

"Establishing ambitious long-term growth goals provides a clear roadmap for progress. These goals indicate that policymakers are planning for the future, identifying vulnerabilities and prioritizing strategic areas to mobilize capital and investment alongside the private sector," S&P added.

# Current India-Canada tension precipitated by Trudeau Govt's baseless allegations: MEA

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (PTI)

**INDIA** on Thursday said the current diplomatic row with Canada has been precipitated by the Trudeau Government's "baseless" allegations, and reiterated that "no evidence" has been shared in support of Ottawa's serious allegations against New Delhi.

At his weekly briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's own admission during a public inquiry tells the value of allegations levelled against India.

Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral

So far no evidence shared by Canada: MEA on alleged involvement of Indian Govt agents in killing of Khalistani separatist Nijjar

processes and democratic institutions, Trudeau on Wednesday acknowledged that he had only intelligence and no "hard evidentiary proof" when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year.

The MEA early on Thursday reacted to this and said what it has heard only "confirms" New Delhi's consistent stand that Canada has "presented us

no evidence" in support of the serious allegations Ottawa chose to level against India and Indian diplomats. During the briefing, Jaiswal reiterated that so far no evidence has been shared by Canada.

"The current crisis (in India-Canada relationship) has been precipitated by the Trudeau Government's baseless allegations," he said.

In response to another query, Jaiswal said there are 26 extradition requests from India

pending with the Canadianside for a decade or so.

Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, Trudeau claimed that the Indian diplomats were collecting information on Canadians who are in disagreement with the Narendra Modi Government and passing it to the highest levels within the Indian government and criminal organisations like the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

"I was briefed on the fact that there was Intelligence from Canada that made it fairly clear, that India was involved in this," he had said.