

## NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) continue to play a pivotal role in safeguarding sensitive information across various industries. As the digital landscape evolves and global connectivity increases, the significance of NDAs has only heightened, necessitating a deeper understanding of their function, implications, and potential limitations. At its core, an NDA is a legal contract between parties, commonly used to protect confidential information shared during business transactions, partnerships, or employment relationships. The agreement outlines the specific information considered confidential, the duration of protection, and the obligations of the parties involved regarding the handling and disclosure of such information. One of the primary purposes of an NDA is to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of proprietary or sensitive information, thereby safeguarding intellectual property, trade secrets, financial data, and other valuable assets. This confidentiality is crucial for businesses to maintain a competitive edge, foster innovation, and preserve the trust of stakeholders. In 2024, the scope of NDAs has expanded to address emerging challenges posed by technological advancements and the increasingly interconnected nature of business operations. With the rise of remote work and digital collaboration platforms, organizations must adapt their NDAs to encompass virtual environments and remote access protocols, ensuring the secure exchange of information across geographically dispersed teams. Moreover, the proliferation of data breaches and cyber threats has underscored the importance of robust confidentiality measures within NDAs. Organizations are now incorporating stringent cybersecurity provisions into their agreements to mitigate the risks of data exposure and unauthorized access, bolstering their defense mechanisms against potential breaches. In addition to protecting proprietary information, NDAs serve as a means of delineating the rights and responsibilities of the parties involved, establishing clear guidelines for the use, handling, and return of confidential materials. By defining the parameters of confidentiality upfront, NDAs help prevent misunderstandings and disputes regarding the treatment of sensitive information, fostering a sense of accountability and trust among stakeholders. However, while NDAs offer valuable protections for businesses, they also raise ethical and legal considerations regarding transparency, accountability, and freedom of information. Critics argue that overly restrictive NDAs can stifle innovation, impede whistleblowing efforts, and inhibit the dissemination of vital information in the public interest. In response to these concerns, there has been a growing call for greater transparency and accountability in the use of NDAs, particularly in cases involving allegations of misconduct, harassment, or discrimination. Advocates argue that NDAs should not be used to silence victims or conceal wrongdoing but should instead strike a balance between protecting legitimate business interests and upholding ethical standards.

## World Environment Day Only One Earth- Future Concern!

World Environment Day is the biggest international day for the environment. led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually since 1973, it is celebrated every year on June 5th, serves as a compelling reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the environment. As one of the most significant events dedicated to environmental awareness, it highlights the pressing issues our planet faces. Each of us can contribute positively by adopting sustainable habits, conserving resources, and promoting eco-friendly solutions. Even small actions, such as planting trees, minimizing waste, or supporting renewable energy, can lead to substantial change because as President Ronald Reagan quoted "Preservation of our environment is not a liberal or conservative challenge; it's a common sense". So Let's unite in our efforts to secure a vibrant future for our planet!

World Environment Day shines a spotlight on pressing environmental challenges. This Day aims to highlight different environmental problems, including air pollution, climate change, plastic pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sustainable consumption, sea-level increase, food security, and many more.

Given the current situation, it is evident that climate change is among the most urgent environmental challenges faced by our planet. It is predicted that climate change will lead to a rise in sea levels, extreme weather events and changes in global food systems. This year, the theme of World Environment Day is - " Our Land - Our Future, we are #GenerationRestoration". This theme is about bringing back healthy land, preventing deserts from growing, and dealing with water shortages.

The theme for World Environment Day 2024 will revolve around land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience. This day is celebrated all over the world, with tens of millions of people participating every year. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote environmental protection measures.

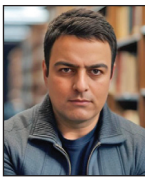
The main objective to celebrate this day is to raise awareness about the most pressing environmental challenges we face and inspire us to find solutions. The reason why United Nations are asking everyone to join the global movement to restore our lands, to build drought resilience and to combat desertification. Because land degradation and desertification affect over three billion people."

According to UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40 percent of the planet's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world's population. The number of and duration of droughts has increased by 29 percent since 2000- without urgent action, droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world population by 2050". Freshwater ecosystems are also degraded, making it harder to grow crops and to raise livestock. This disproportionality affects small holder farmers and, of course the rural poor.

By restoring ecosystems, we can slow the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, including desertification, and the crisis of pollution and waste. According to UN, we can help to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, in line with Global Biodiversity Framework.Through small yet significant actions like adopting sustainable practices, conserving resources, and supporting eco-friendly solutions, each individual can contribute to positive change. By uniting in a global movement to restore our lands and combat environmental degradation, we can pave the way for a healthier and more sustainable future. As we reflect on the significance of World Environment Day, let us commit to preserving the planet for current and future generations. Together, we can make a difference and ensure a thriving environment for all.

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■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF



The Indian GDP grew by 8.2% in the financial year ending March of 2024, well above the initial print of 7.3%, and revised higher from the second estimate of 7.6%, to consolidate India as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Still, the GDP diverged considerably from the 7.2% growth in gross value added in the financial year, indicating that the net indirect tax category of the GDP may have inflated the gauge.

The market momentum indicators such as high growth of GDP, forecast for the positive monsoon behaviour; softening inflation and fiscal direction are moving in tandem and supporting India's lucrativeness to the global investors.

While the fourth quarter growth has been strong at 7.8 per cent, there has been upward revision in the previous quarter numbers and that has strongly propped up the overall GDP growth for the year. Another important point is the sharp divergence of 1 percentage point between GDP and GVA growth in 2023-24 as against 0.3 percentage point in 2022-23. This is mainly because of sharp growth in net taxes (due to higher tax collection and lower subsidies). This has also aided in pushing up the GDP growth.

Real GDP has been estimated to grow by 8.2% in FY 2023-24 as compared to the growth rate of 7.0% in FY 2022-23. Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 9.6% in FY 2023-24 over the growth rate of 14.2% in FY 2022-23. The economy grew 7.8% in the March quarter of FY24, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

According to the NSO data, real GDP, or GDP at constant prices, is estimated to attain a level of ₹173.82 lakh crore in 2023-24, against the first revised estimates (FRE) of GDP for 2022-23 of ₹160.71 lakh crore. "The growth rate in real GDP during 2023-24 is estimated at 8.2% as compared to 7.0% in 2022-23," it stated.

Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹295.36 lakh crore

■ DR PARVEEN KUMAR HANIEF

The World Environment Day celebrated every year on June 05 since 1974 is one of the biggest annual environmental event organized by United Nations that recognizes the need to put up collective action to protect our environment. It has now grown up to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. This event of the United Nations (UN) aims to generate awareness about the significance of environment and the urgency with which efforts need to be made for a sustainable environment. 'Sustainable' means an environment that would provide the present generation with all the basic necessities required for their survival without compromising with the generations to come. A healthy environment is a prerequisite for a healthy living and well being of all the biodiversity that exists on this planet. Our natural resources like air, water and soil are a vital part of our environment. Air we breathe, water we drink and soil from we get different crops ultimately decide the existence of life on earth. Environment consists of both biotic as well as abiotic components. Without it, the living things couldn't survive on Earth. Our planet, Earth is a home for different living species and we all are dependent on the environment for food, air, water, and other needs. However, from the last few decades several issues are disrupting our environment and causing some irreversible damage to living beings. Therefore, it becomes important for every individual to save and protect the environment.

The United Nations General Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972 on the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human environment. The Stockholm conference adopted resolution A/RES/2994 to mark June 05 as the World Environment Day. The resolution was adopted urging the government and the organization in the United Nations to undertake on that day every year worldwide activities reflecting their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment with a view of deepening environmental awareness. Two years later in 1974 the first world environment day was held with the theme 'Only One Earth'. Every year the day is celebrated with a specific theme which highlights the major issues confronting the environment and which require immediate action. In 1974, it



in 2023-24, against ₹269.50 lakh crore in 2022-23, showing a growth rate of 9.6%. The real GDP in the March quarter of 2023-24 is estimated at ₹47.24 lakh crore, against ₹43.84 lakh crore a year earlier; showing a growth rate of 7.8%.

The most important and the fastest growing sector of Indian economy are services. Trade, hotels, transport and communication; financing, insurance, real estate and business services and community, social and personal services account for more than 60 percent of GDP. Agriculture, forestry and fishing constitute around 12 percent of the output, but employs more than 50 percent of the labor force. Manufacturing accounts for 15 percent of GDP, construction for another 8 percent and mining, quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply for the remaining 5 percent.

The Indian economy expanded 7.3% in the 2023-24 fiscal year ending in March, higher than 7.2% in the previous year, according to preliminary government estimates, with state spending on infrastructure projects offering a boost. The figure is higher than a 7% growth forecasted by the Reserve Bank of India in December. Government spending surged 4.1%, much higher than a 0.1% rise in the previous fiscal year; while a slowdown was seen in consumer spending (4.4% vs 7.5%), gross fixed capital formation (1.1% vs 11.4%), exports (1.4% vs 13.6%) and imports (13.2% vs

17.1%).

On the production front, faster increases were seen in manufacturing (6.5% vs 1.3%), construction (10.7% vs 10%), finance and real estate services (8.9% vs 7.1%) and mining (8.1% vs 4.6%), while lower growth rates were recorded for agriculture (1.8% vs 4%), utilities (8.3% vs 9%), trade, hotels, transport and communication (6.3% vs 14%).

The GVA growth in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 8.9% in the March quarter against 0.9% a year ago. GVA growth in mining was 4.3% in the fourth quarter compared to 2.9% in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. Construction grew 8.7% in the quarter; up from 7.4% in the corresponding period of 2022-23. The agriculture sector growth decelerated to 0.6% from 7.6%.

The electricity, gas, water supply, and other utility services segment grew 7.7% during the fourth quarter from 7.3% in the year-ago period. GVA growth in the services sector -- trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting -- was 5.1% in the fourth quarter against a growth of 7% a year ago.

Financial, real estate and professional services grew 7.6% in the March 2023 quarter compared to 9.2% in the year-ago period. Public administration, defence and other services posted 7.8% growth in the quarter against 4.7% expansion in the same quarter a year ago.

## 'Our Land, Our Future' World Environment Day: June 05

was celebrated with the theme 'Only One Earth'. Since then various host countries have been celebrating it and idea for rotating the centres of these activities started. This year's World Environment Day theme is 'land restoration, desertification and drought resilience'. The theme will be celebrated under the slogan 'Our land, our future. We are #GenerationRestoration'. At present the planet is witnessing an intensification of the triple planetary crisis i. e the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste. This crisis is placing the world's ecosystems under assault. Billions of hectares of land are degraded, affecting almost half of the world's population and threatening half of global GDP. Rural communities, smallholder farmers and the extremely poor are hit hardest. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host World Environment Day 2024.

'Desertification' refers to 'the process of persistent degradation of dry land ecosystems by climatic variations and human activities. Desertification occurs as a result of a long-term failure to balance human demand for ecosystem services and the amount the ecosystem can supply. As a result of Desertification, fertile areas become increasingly arid the biological productivity is lost. It is in other words, the spread of arid areas caused by a variety of factors, such as climate change (particularly the current global warming) and overexploitation of soil as a result of human activity. Desertification and Drought have a bearing on each other.

With less vegetation there is less transpiration and evaporation from the soil, causing less rainfall which ultimately leads to Drought like situation. Drought triggers the desertification and also the desertification can influence the drought by reducing the water soil content. No matter where we live, the consequences of desertification and drought concern all of us. According to the UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification), 25% of the world's land area is either highly degraded or undergoing high rates of degradation and is no longer productive. 75 per cent has been transformed from its natural state, mostly for agriculture. This transformation in land use

is happening at a faster rate than at any other time in human history, and has accelerated over the last 50 years. Scientists say the evolution from one state to the next is so rapid and the process is only observable over very short periods. Everyone needs to know that desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) have direct affect on their daily lives, and that everyone's daily actions can either contribute to, or help fight DLDD.

Land restoration is a key pillar of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, which is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Restoring terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is a crucial step in the transformation of global agri-food systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Ecosystem restoration also offers a long term solution in the fight to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, as we face population growth and increased need for foods and ecosystem goods and services. Land that is healthy and resilient is the first point of defense against disasters such as droughts and flashfloods, which are becoming more frequent, long and severe. The loss of more and more productive land is thus a concern for all of us. Given the speed with which the process is going on, the next few decades will be the most critical in restoring land for sustainable future.

The problem is man-made, which means humans are also part of the solution. Thus, sustainable land management should be everyone's business. Together, we can restore the productivity of over 2 billion hectares of degraded land and improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion Peoples around the world. Land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss is intimately connected and is increasingly affecting human well-being. Tackling these issues together is also a key to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A decade of land degradation may create irreversible damage, but a decade of land restoration may bring multiple benefits. If countries can restore the nearly 800 million hectares of degraded land they have pledged to restore by 2030, we can safeguard humanity and

India's GDP growth for the full year 2023-24 and the January-March 2024 quarter exceeded both expectations and the consensus forecast. This robust performance was driven by continued strong investment and subdued private consumption growth, alongside a significant contribution from discrepancies - the unexplained component of GDP. These discrepancies also explain the notable divergence between GDP and GVA growth."

But tourism, recreation, hotels, etc. did witness an upsurge due to pent up demand. Higher profits of companies in the hospitality sector also contributed to this increase. The financial sector continued to do well and grew by 8.4 per cent, the report said. The banking sector had witnessed high growth in both deposits and credit last year, which added to this buoyancy. BoB expects GDP growth for FY25 to be around 7.3-7.4 per cent with the base effect pulling down the growth.

However, private consumption growth remains subdued, increasing by only 4 per cent in FY24, which is the slowest rate in the last two decades, excluding the contraction during the pandemic year of FY21. For FY25, Care Ratings expects GDP growth to be around 7 per cent.

India's growth numbers come at a time when many major global economies are grappling with slowing growth due to steep interest rates. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that in calendar year (CY) 2024, the US economy will grow by 2.7 per cent, while the Eurozone and China are expected to see growth rates of 0.8 per cent and five per cent, respectively.

This growth reiterates India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy which currently holds the tag of being the world's fifth largest economy. Despite the high base set by unexpectedly strong growth in FY24, India will achieve close to 7 per cent growth in FY25, thanks to sustained economic momentum. With robust growth and declining inflation, the Indian economy is in an enviable position, poised to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

our planet from the looming danger; according to I. Thiaw, Executive director UNCCD'. Investing in land restoration creates jobs and generates economic benefits, and could provide livelihoods at a time when hundreds of millions of jobs are being lost. But land restoration can reverse the creeping tide of land degradation, drought and desertification. Every dollar invested in restoration can bring up to US\$30 in ecosystem services. Restoration boosts livelihoods, lowers poverty and builds resilience to extreme weather. Restoration increases carbon storage and slows climate change. Restoring just 15 per cent of land and halting further conversion could avoid up to 60 per cent of expected species extinctions.

Along with land restoration, it is also equally important to combat climate change. Restoring land without tackling climate change would be like giving with one hand and taking away with the other. So, the global bodies like G20 nations must show leadership across the whole climate agenda and must come out with definite achievable goals for the member countries to commit and achieve. Countries have promised to restore one billion hectares, an area larger than China. If they deliver, this will be huge achievement. For the year 2024, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) have named seven initiatives from Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and South Asia as UN World Restoration Flagships. These initiatives include ecosystems at the tipping point of outright degradation resulting from wildfires, drought, deforestation, and pollution. These restoration flagships are now eligible for technical and financial UN support. The World Restoration Flagship awards are part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration led by UNEP and FAO which aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. Together, the seven new flagships are expected to restore nearly 40 million hectares, an area almost 600 times the size of Nairobi and create around 500,000 jobs. These initiatives show how we can make peace with nature, put local communities at the heart of restoration efforts and still create new jobs.

(The author writes on agriculture and social issues).

## YOUR COLUMN STUNNING LOK SABHA ELECTION RESULTS

Dear Editor,

Exit poll results have been belied to the extent the seats projected for NDA and have come true to the extent of keeping the I.N.D.I.A. bloc in opposition benches. This result has disabled the BJP from forming the government on its own. Uttar Pradesh state has upset the apple cart of BJP. Pran Prathishta of Bala Ram in Ayodhya has not turned the wind in favour of BJP. It is a neck-to-neck fight between NDA and INDI alliance.

This election has sprung many surprises also. BJP has opened its account in Kerala. It was not a cake-walk for Congress leader Shashi Tharoor from Thiruvananthapuram constituency to win. Rajeev Chandrashekhara gave a tough fight to Tharoor.

BJP has pulled the Assembly election victory in Arunchala Pradesh, TDP in Andhra Pradesh. TDP has registered good victory in the Lok Sabha election also. The BJP's position has improved in Karnataka after it

suffered heinous electoral debacle in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Omar Abdullah and Mufti Mehbooba, both former Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir have tasted defeat. It is repeat performance for BJP in Delhi. For AAP, it is not the same performance as in the previous Assembly elections. Action on Arvind Kejriwal for his involvement in the liquor policy scam did not earn any sympathy from the voters for AAP. The party has drawn blank.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi retains Varanasi, a seat which previously Murali Manohar Joshi held. Jitan Ram Manjhi has won. The sitting MP D.K. Suresh who was almost considered invincible lost the seat to Dr. Manjunath.

Dr. Manjunath is novice to politics. But his service to the people as doctor is immemorable. He had served the people as a doctor to such an extent that if he had been defeated, it would have been regarded as the people of Karnataka. Performance of BJP and Congress is on equal footing in Telangana.

The architect of the state K. Chandrashekhara Rao's party BRS has been decimated by BJP and Congress. It is a clean sweep for BJP in Himachala Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Orissa. AAP for which Punjab is citadel has to be content with 3 seats ceding 7 seats to

Congress and 3 to others. The continued cleavage between BJP and SAD in Punjab has come to the advantage of Congress and AAP. The citadel of TMC has remained intact despite Sandeshkhali incidents and despite quite often West Bengal witnessing large-scale violence. A hung Assembly or a hung Parliament cannot guarantee the stability of the government. There are innumerable instances of keeping the single largest party in the opposition both at the level of centre and states. Pre-poll alliances do not bar the constituents from crossing over to the other side after the poll is over. The Constitution confers rights to rule based on the numbers on the majority side. Right to rule is and has not been guaranteed to a single largest party. Coalition governments have crumbled like house of cards both at central and state levels.

Small differences of opinion can trigger off friction in the government. The art of handling coalition government is very difficult. But Modi has the talent. He can emulate the example of Atal Behari Vajpayee who successfully handled 13 parties with different ideologies. Modi 3.0 government will be fragile in nature. Both Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu are known to change their course. When they leave and when they come back cannot be predicted.

K.V. Seetharamaiah