

Top Story 1

India, Africa should target \$200 bn trade in next 7 years

There is a huge potential to increase economic cooperation between India and Africa as both regions can look at doubling two-way trade to USD 200 billion in the next seven years, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday. Speaking at CII's India-Africa business conclave, Goyal said the main sectors where businesses of the two sides can collaborate include agriculture, pharmaceuticals, mining, tourism, auto, critical minerals, and renewable energy. "I would like to suggest six areas for collaboration and cooperation as a way forward to take this relationship to the next level," he said, adding, "can we look at doubling our trade. So far we have only a few African countries who trade with India". He said as many as 33 countries do not participate in the duty free tariff preference (DFTP) scheme of India. "Can we look at getting more and more countries to enjoy the fruits of this partnership and set a benchmark to double this trade number from USD 100 billion to USD 200 billion between India and Africa. I think we should look at doing that in seven years," said.

Top Story 2

India & Singapore Strengthen Ties at Second Ministerial Roundtable

The second India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) was held in Singapore today. During the meeting, the leaders of India and Singapore emphasised ways of further enhancing cooperation between India and Singapore in emerging and futuristic areas. Both sides deliberated upon six pillars identified under ISMR, which include digitalisation, skill development, sustainability, healthcare and medicine, and advanced manufacturing and connectivity. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the meeting. The delegation from Singapore was led by Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Gan Kim Yong. The leaders also discussed plans for commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore, alongside regional and global cooperation, including ASEAN and G20 developments. The leaders noted that the discussions during the first round of ISMR have resulted in the successful conclusion of MoUs on healthcare, education, skill development, digital cooperation and semiconductor ecosystem cooperation.

Economy: -

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Digitalization: -

Digital payments are transforming India's economy

The global payments industry has undergone rapid change, transforming digital commerce and financial inclusion around the world. India has been at the forefront of this revolution, leading the way in making digital payments accessible to all. Notably, the India Stack has been a catalyst driving innovation and serving to democratize identity, data, payments, and governance. With its scale and rapid adoption, India Stack has helped India achieve its financial inclusion target of 80%. (1) It is truly remarkable to see the rapid pace of change over the past decade making India the world's fifth largest economy. India's concerted push towards a "less-cash" economy is bringing half a billion Indians from underserved communities into the country's economy; a key factor leading the country to becoming one of the world's fastest growing economies. As Vice Chair of Visa, I strongly believe that advancing financial inclusion is the key to building sustained economic growth and India is creating a model for the future of payments globally.

Finance: -

Budget Balances Fiscal Prudence, Growth: RBI Paper

The Union Budget strikes the "right balance" between fiscal prudence and macro stability, and strengthens the medium-term growth outlook, a paper by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) staffers said recently. The document presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 2024 aims to further strengthen the macroeconomic stability and harness the potential in different sectors of the economy, the paper by Aayushi Khandelwal, Harshita Yadav and others published in the central bank's monthly bulletin said. "Overall, the Union Budget 2024-25 strikes the right balance between fiscal prudence and macroeconomic stability which should strengthen the medium-term growth outlook," the paper, which does not represent the institutional views, said. The document aims at providing a "boost to growth and job creation while pursuing fiscal consolidation", it added.

Investment: -

The economics of India-Nepal power trade

In Recent Finshots, we talk about how India trades power with its neighboring Himalayan country Nepal, and whether it makes economic sense to do so. But before we dive in, here's something that might catch your attention - It's been a year since Jio Financial Services demerged from Reliance Industries and got listed on the Indian stock markets. So we thought to take a deep dive and see how the company has been doing since its demerger and understand how it's future looks like. With that out of the way, let's get on to today's story. The Himalayan country is going to supply an additional 251 megawatts (MW) of power to India, particularly through Bihar, thanks to a medium-term sales agreement involving 12 hydropower projects. This is expected to bring Nepal's total power exports to India to an impressive 941 MW. To put that in perspective, one megawatt can power roughly 750 to 1,000 homes for a year. So, when Nepal exports 251 megawatts, it's sending enough electricity to keep nearly 190,000 homes fully powered for an entire year.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	83.937	0.047	NIFTY 50	24,811.50	41.3
EURINR	94	-0.031	BSE Sensex	81,053.19	147.89
GBPINR	110.129	0.293			
JPYINR	57.6137	-0.1034			