

Top Story 1

India's Economy Projected To Grow At 7.1% In Q1 2024

India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1% in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year, according to a new report from SBI Research. This growth forecast aligns closely with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) annual projection of 7.2% for the 2024-25 fiscal year, with anticipated growth rates of 7.1% for Q1, 7.2% for Q2, 7.3% for Q3, and 7.2% for Q4. The SBI Research Ecowrap report highlights that despite facing challenges such as supply chain disruptions, rising global freight and container costs, and semiconductor shortages, the Indian economy has demonstrated resilience. The report underscores a robust performance in the agricultural sector, which is expected to see growth rebound to 4.5-5% in FY25—0.3% higher than the RBI's forecast—thanks to a revived southwest monsoon.

Top Story 2

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.

Economy: -

India's bio-economy to reach \$300 billion by 2030

Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that the Modi Government's recently unveiled BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Employment, and Environment) Policy is poised to position India as a global leader in the bioeconomy. Speaking on the transformative policy, Singh emphasised that as India emerges as a global biotech powerhouse, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be recognized worldwide as a champion of the biotech boom, driving economic growth, innovation, and environmental sustainability. India's economy has seen explosive growth, surging from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to reach \$300 billion by 2030. The BioE3 Policy is expected to accelerate this momentum, significantly contributing to the 'Make in India' initiative by promoting bio-based products with minimal carbon footprints. Singh highlighted that the BioE3 Policy aims to address critical global challenges like climate change and the depletion of non-renewable resources by shifting from chemical-based industries to sustainable bio-based models. The policy also supports the creation of biomanufacturing hubs, which will play a central role in developing and commercialising bio-based products and fostering innovation through Bio-AI hubs.

Banking: -

Reserve Bank of India to Launch Lending Platform

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to launch a technology platform designed to enable frictionless credit, especially for small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs). The RBI began piloting the platform — which it plans to name the “Unified Lending Interface (ULI)” — in 2023 and plans to launch it nationwide “in due course,” said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, per recent (Aug. 2024) press release. “This platform facilitates seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including even land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders,” Das said in an inaugural address at the RBI@90 Global Conference, per the release. “This cuts down the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers.” Das added that the ULI architecture has common and standardized APIs, is designed for a “plug-and-play” approach to provide access to information from diverse sources, and enables borrowers to get credit quicker and without providing extensive documentation, per the release.

Investment: -

Positioned India as an attractive investment destination

The Union Minister discussed bilateral trade and investment issues with the global business leaders in Singapore like Temasek holdings, DBS bank, OMERS, Keppal infrastructure and TVS Motor Company, among others. "Positioned India as an attractive investment destination and invited these multinationals to be a part of our development journey," he posted on X. In the meetings, key discussions were held to explore and enhance investment opportunities between India and Singapore, focusing on mutual growth and collaboration across diverse sectors. "The focus was on exploring investment opportunities in India, leveraging the country's economic growth, and fostering collaboration across various sectors," according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The discussions focused on scaling up investments, particularly in the SME sector, enhancing India's investment climate, supporting sustainable development through decarbonisation, and identifying synergies for family-owned businesses in a changing global landscape, the ministry informed.

Digitalization: -

India offers UPI as a plug-and-play to other countries

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday offered India's UPI system as a plug-and-play system for other countries to facilitate quicker and cheaper cross-border remittances among the community of nations. Addressing the Global Conference here on 'Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies', the RBI Governor said, "In this journey of attaining harmonisation and interoperability of payments among countries, a key challenge could be the fact that countries may prefer to design their own systems as per their domestic considerations. We can overcome this challenge by developing a plug-and-play system which allows replicability while also maintaining the sovereignty of respective countries." "India has made some progress in this direction and would be happy to develop a plug-and-play system for the benefit of the community of nations," Das announced.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	83.352	0.006	NIFTY 50	20,066.10	-30.5
EURINR	91.469	0.04	BSE Sensex	66,730.10	-171.8
GBPINR	105.862	0.058			
JPYINR	56.6726	0.0668			

