

## **Top Story 1**

### **India, Norway discuss investments under EFTA pact**

India and Norway on Sunday held discussions to identify areas where investments can be channelled under the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) that was signed between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in March this year. Areas for investments which were explored at the meeting of India-Norway business roundtable in Mumbai included logistics, supply chain, connectivity, maritime, energy, circular economy, food and agri, infrastructure and technology. Norway is one of the key members of the EFTA which also includes Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation while the Norwegian side was headed by ambassador of Norway to India May-Elin Stener.

## **Top Story 2**

## **India's services sector saw strong growth in November, PMI shows**

Growth in India's dominant services sector remained strong in November despite the steepest rise in prices for over a decade, while consistent demand led to a significant rise in business sentiment and record hiring, a business survey showed. The HSBC final India Services Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by S&P Global, stayed almost unchanged at 58.4 in November from 58.5 in October, but was lower than a preliminary estimate of 59.2. A sub-index measuring new business - a gauge of demand - fell from October but showed no concerning signs of weakness. It was supported by international demand that rose at its fastest pace since August. Nevertheless, a substantial improvement was seen in the business outlook for the year-ahead based on predictions of strong demand. The future activity sub-index was the highest in six months.

## **Finance: -**

### **Economy likely to expand by 6.8% in FY25: S&P**

The Indian economy is expected to grow by 6.8% in 2024-25 and 6.9% in 2025-26, according to India Outlook by S&P Global Ratings. The economy is poised for robust growth in 2025, supported by strong urban consumption, steady growth in the service sector, and ongoing investment in infrastructure, the rating agency said recently. In the second quarter of the current financial year, the gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.4%, marking a seven-quarter low, due to weak manufacturing and sluggish demand, according to the official data released last month. Manufacturing growth was recorded at 2.2%, down from 7% in the first quarter.

## **Investment: -**

### **India to invest over Rs 143 lakh crore in urban infra by 2030**

Anticipating the growing need for quality urban infrastructure in years to come, India is expected to invest over Rs 143 lakh crore in infrastructure by 2030, a report said on Monday, adding that this will lead to further land price appreciation. Rapid infrastructure development driven by nodal authorities is fuelling the growth of satellite townships across the country, said the Colliers report. Most of this expenditure is to be directed towards urban clusters, driving significant activity in infrastructure-led urban development. Projects under consideration include second airports, inter-city metro connectivity, aero-cities, highways (including quick transit freeways), high-speed rail corridors, IT+ITES zones, large datacenter concentration zones, among others.

## **Digitalization: -**

### **UPI: A Game-Changer in India's Digital Payment Ecosystem**

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized digital transactions, making money transfers seamless, instant, and hassle-free. By enabling cross-platform compatibility, UPI allows users to send money, pay bills, and make purchases without the need for cash or cards. Its simple yet powerful interface, combined with real-time processing, has driven financial inclusion, bringing millions into the digital economy. The ease of use and security features have made it a preferred choice for individuals and businesses alike. With rapid adoption and continuous innovation, UPI is shaping India's fintech landscape, setting benchmarks for digital payments globally. As it expands beyond domestic transactions to international markets, UPI is poised to redefine the future of cashless payments. Discover how UPI is driving India's cashless revolution and transforming the economy in this in-depth analysis.

## **ECONOMY: -**

### **India set for resilient growth in 2025 driven by urban consumption: S&P**

The Indian economy is set for resilient growth in 2025 on the back of strong urban consumption, steady services sector growth, and ongoing investment in infrastructure, S&P Global Ratings has said in its latest India Outlook. The global ratings agency kept the FY25 gross domestic product (GDP) growth outlook unchanged at 6.8 per cent amid slower fiscal impulse tempering urban demand. The ratings agency said that higher labour force participation, infrastructure and technology improvement, and stronger public and household balance sheets can support economic growth in India. For 2025-26 and 2026-27, S&P Global Ratings pegged India's GDP growth forecast at 6.7 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively, down 20 basis points (bps) from its previous estimates.

<b>Currency</b>	<b>Rate (Rs)</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Index</b>	<b>Change</b>	
<b>USDINR</b>	83.963	0.01	<b>NIFTY 50</b>	25,139.05	-140.8
<b>EURINR</b>	93	0.068	<b>BSE Sensex</b>	82,160.60	-394.84
<b>GBPINR</b>	110.067	-0.039			
<b>JPYINR</b>	57.9006	0.1951			