

## **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**

### **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.

## **Finance: -**

### **Financial Resilience and Innovation – an Indian Perspective**

In the changing field of economic growth, the connection between financial strength and new ideas has become an important area of research, especially in India. As the country deals with quick technological changes, different rules, and various economic issues, it is crucial to understand how financial systems adapt. This analysis is timely as India faces both great opportunities and big challenges, which need creative solutions for lasting growth. India's financial situation is changing a lot, and this change is affected by both financial strength and new ideas. The rise of fintech solutions shows this change, making it easier for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to get funding and encouraging entrepreneurship. Financial innovation, especially via digital platforms, is seen as an important factor for economic improvement, providing new financial products and services for various market needs. Still, there are many problems to face, like weak infrastructure and regulations that can slow down growth.

## **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.

## **Economy: -**

# **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.

## Market: -

### OECD raises India's FY25 growth forecast to 6.8%

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2024-25, raising it to 6.8% from 6.6% projected in May. The upward revision is attributed to strong investment activity and robust agricultural output, reflecting resilience in the Indian economy despite global uncertainties. OECD's latest outlook underscores India's expanding industrial and services sectors, alongside sustained infrastructure development, which continue to drive growth. Additionally, government policies and structural reforms have contributed to an improved economic trajectory. This revised forecast aligns with other global agencies' optimistic projections for India, reinforcing its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies. However, OECD also highlighted risks such as geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, and global demand fluctuations, which could impact the momentum. With strong domestic consumption and investment trends, India's economic outlook for FY25 remains robust, setting a positive tone for future expansion.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	83.606	0	NIFTY 50	26,004.15	63.75
EURINR	94	0.04	BSE Sensex	85,169.87	255.83
GBPINR	111.77	-0.373			
JPYINR	57.8866	-0.4771			