

Top Story 1

India Expected to Become Fourth-Largest Economy in the World by 2025

India is expected to become the fourth-largest economy in the world by 2025, according to Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa and former CEO of Niti Aayog. Kant highlighted several factors contributing to India's economic growth, such as record-breaking GST collections, consistent GDP growth of over 8% in the past three quarters, manageable inflation levels, double-digit growth in the steel, cement, and automobile manufacturing sectors, and the use of the Indian Rupee for trading with 27 countries. India is also a global leader in digital public infrastructure, with e-transactions accounting for 46% of all global digital payments. India's Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile Trinity accounts have a total balance of over Rs 2.32 lakh crore. The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) latest World Economic Outlook predicts that India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy in 2024, with a projected growth rate of 6.8%. Kant's remarks show India's impressive economic growth in recent years, especially given its previous classification as one of the "Fragile 5" emerging countries in 2013.

<https://www.equitypandit.com/india-expected-to-become-fourth-largest-economy-in-the-world-by-2025/>

Top Story 2

India to extend budgetary support of \$50 million to Maldives

India extends budgetary support to Maldives by rolling over \$50 million treasury bill upon special request. SBI subscribes to Maldives Finance Ministry's bill, aiding infrastructure projects under \$800 million Exim Bank credit line, including cybersecurity agreement. India decided to continue its budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a \$50 million treasury bill for another year. This follows the Maldivian government's special request made during Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer's visit here last week. The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the \$50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription, the High Commission of India in Male said in a statement. These treasury bills are subscribed by SBI under government-to-government, a unique arrangement at zero cost (interest-free) to the Government of Maldives.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-to-extend-budgetary-support-of-50-million-to-maldives/articleshow/110085310.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Finance: -

The New Gateway to India

The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) is seeing steady success in terms of moving offshore financial transactions and activities relating to investments in and from India. The past year has seen significant activity in trading value (~\$477 billion between Mar-23 and Dec-23), banking assets (Outstanding of ~\$52 billion as on Dec-23), setting up of Fund Management Entities (83 funds with ~\$7 billion of commitments). As India becomes a global investment destination, GIFT City could prove to be the way the world invests in India, boding well for India's vision of becoming a leading global financial and technology hub. GIFT City, located on the banks of the Sabarmati River between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, is a business district envisaged and built to cater to global and domestic business enterprises. It is the flagbearer for smart cities in India and aims to be an international benchmark for finance and technology hubs worldwide. By competing with other IFSCs such as Dublin, Hong Kong, and Singapore, it puts India on the global map of finance.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-gift-city-the-new-gateway-to-india-3485850/>

Digitalization: -

Kolkata Metro Embraces UPI for Ticketing System

Kolkata Metro is set to revolutionise its ticketing system by integrating Unified Payments Interface (UPI) technology. This move aims to streamline the ticketing process and enhance commuter convenience. The initiative is a part of the metro's efforts to embrace digitalization and cater to the evolving needs of passengers in the digital age. The UPI-based ticketing system will allow passengers to purchase tickets seamlessly using their smartphones. By leveraging UPI, commuters can make transactions directly from their bank accounts, eliminating the need for physical cash or cards. This not only simplifies the ticketing process but also promotes contactless transactions, which have become increasingly important in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the integration of UPI into the ticketing system is expected to reduce queues at ticket counters, thereby minimising waiting times for passengers. This technological advancement aligns with the metro's commitment to providing efficient and convenient services to its passengers.

<https://www.constructionworld.in/transport-infrastructure/metro-rail-and-railways-infrastructure/kolkata-metro-embraces-upi-for-ticketing-system/55325>

Market: -

Russia & India Settle \$4 Billion Trade in Rupee, Ditch US Dollar

In a multipolar world where US dollar dominance continues to be challenged, the rise of local currency narratives is gaining steady momentum. These currencies are sharp, robust, and equally capable of driving the USD off the rails, threatening its global reputation. Per recent reports, an array of Russian companies have purchased robust arms and defense equipment worth \$4 billion from India. The deal struck between India and Russia was later settled in Indian rupees rather than using the traditional US dollar. The purchase was made over six to eight months via a concept called Rupee Vostro accounts. A Vostro account simply refers to an account that a domestic bank holds for foreign banks to trade in the former's domestic currency. The concept has entailed Russia exploring Indian defense equipment by carrying out the payment settlement in rupees. Per local reports, the Russian Vostro account held nearly \$8 billion in funds, half of which have been spent on the arms purchase carried out recently.

<https://watcher.guru/news/russia-india-settle-4-billion-trade-in-rupee-ditch-us-dollar>

Investment: -

London's Fintech Farm expands to India with a fresh \$32m investment

The company, which offers technology solutions to mid-sized banks in emerging markets, enabling them to develop digital banking tools, secured this capital through a Series B funding round, according to a report from Sifted. The funding was led by Nordstar, a London-based venture firm, followed by an extension from the London Stock Exchange-listed Bank of Georgia. Fintech Farm's primary service involves partnering with banks in emerging markets to build neobank applications. Fintech Farm provides comprehensive operational support through its 'neobank in a box' model, which includes essential digital banking services like debit and credit cards, and investment options. The funds from this latest round will be used to launch and expand the company's fintech products in India. This move aims to enhance consumer access to credit in a market burgeoning with digital payment systems and intense competition.

<https://fintech.global/2024/05/13/londons-fintech-farm-expands-to-india-with-a-fresh-32m-investment/>

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	83.512	0.06	NIFTY 50	22,046.45	88.95
EURINR	90.029	0.032	BSE Sensex	72,631.03	226.86
GBPINR	104.632	0.116			
JPYINR	53.63	-0.035			