

Top Story 1

India's Rising Star for Foreign Portfolio Investors

India's GIFT City is gaining traction among foreign portfolio investors, who are opting for it over traditional investment routes via Mauritius or Singapore. This shift is primarily attributed to the tax benefits and improved ease of doing business in GIFT City compared to other common investment channels. India's first operational International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City, offers lucrative tax benefits backed by a robust legal and regulatory framework, which has enhanced its appeal among foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). Since the introduction of specific regulations for managing funds in 2022, there has been promising investment growth year-on-year. GIFT City aspires to become a worldwide center for finance and technology, drawing companies from a variety of sectors, including capital markets, fintech, IT, banking, insurance, and more.

<https://www.india-briefing.com/news/gift-city-indias-rising-star-for-foreign-portfolio-investors-32903>.

Top Story 2

India leading global fintech ecosystem thanks to UPI: PM Modi

Driven by digital public infrastructure (DPI) models like unified payments interface (UPI), the country is now leading the global fintech ecosystem and several countries are ready to embrace the 'India Stack' solutions to empower the masses, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told IANS. In an exclusive interaction at his official residence in the national capital, PM Modi said when he kicked off the 'Digital India' movement, opposition parties made allegations that this was being done to serve the needs of the service providers. "They could not understand how big this area is and the 21st century is a technology-driven century. Moreover, technology today is driven by artificial intelligence (AI)," PM Modi told IANS. The digital revolution, driven by UPI and QR-code-based payments, has shown to the world that DPIs like UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker can transform millions of lives.

<https://coingeek.com/india-finance-minister-seeks-global-understanding-on-digital-asset-regulation/>

Economy: -

India's Q4 FY24 GDP likely to have grown at 6.1-6.7%: Economists

India's GDP in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2023-24 is expected to have grown within the range of 6.1-6.7 percent, a decrease from the over 8 percent growth rate recorded in the previous three quarters, according to projections by various economists. The GDP numbers for the fourth quarter (January-March 2024) and the provisional estimates for the 2023-24 fiscal year are scheduled to be released by the government in May 2024. Economists estimate the overall growth for the 2023-24 fiscal year to be in the range of 7.6-7.8 percent. The Indian economy grew 8.2 percent in the June quarter, 8.1 percent in the September quarter, and 8.4 percent in the December quarter of 2023-24. According to the Chief Economist of a major private bank, high-frequency data indicates robust growth across various sectors, with trade and hotels showing resilience in the fourth quarter.

Finance: -

Multinationals post 45.2% growth in net profit in FY23, shows RBI data

The net profit of foreign direct investment (FDI) companies in India, or multinational companies, rose by 45.2 per cent year on year (YoY) to over Rs 2.69 trillion in the year ended March 2023 on the back of improvement in margins. FDI companies or multinationals had posted a net profit of over Rs 1.85 trillion in FY22. The Reserve Bank of India, in a statement, said the net profit margin improved to 5.9 per cent in FY23 from 4.9 per cent in FY22 and 3.2 per cent during 2020-21 (FY21). This improvement came in the post-COVID pandemic recovery period. The performance analysis is based on audited annual accounts of 2,272 companies that reported in the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) format for three accounting years from 2020-21 to 2022-23.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/multinationals-post-45-2-growth-in-net-profit-in-fy23-shows-rbi-data-124052701302_1.html

Market: -

Rupee appreciates 3 paise to 83.10 against US dollar in early trade

The rupee appreciated by 3 paise to 83.10 against the US dollar recently, tracking a positive trend in domestic equities and weakness of the American currency in the overseas market. Forex traders rupee is likely to trade with a positive bias tracking a positive trend in domestic equities and expectations of fresh foreign inflows, however, a recovery in crude oil prices may cap a sharp upside. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.14 and gained further ground to trade at 83.10 against the greenback, registering a gain of 3 paise from its previous closing level. The rupee pared its initial gains and settled for the day lower by 3 paise at 83.13 against the US dollar.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rupee-appreciates-3-paise-to-83-10-against-us-dollar-in-early-trade-124052800296_1.html

Investment: -

EQT raises \$1.6 bn for Asia mid-market fund, keeps India in investment focus

Swedish investment giant EQT's newest fund, BPEA EQT Mid-Market Growth Partnership (MMG Fund), has raised \$1.6 billion, surpassing its target of \$750 million. India, South East Asia, Japan, and Australia will be the fund's primary target regions, EQT said in a press release. MMG strategy makes investments in Asia's high-growth mid-market businesses. It is a continuation of the large-cap buyout strategy of EQT Private Capital Asia, which is focused on mid-market control buyouts. The investment approach is the same, with a focus on the technology, services, healthcare, and technology services sectors. "We have been investing in Asia for the best part of three decades and now have a fully scaled and established large-cap platform. Following this growth, we found that we no longer had a dedicated pool of capital to invest in compelling mid-market companies," said Jean Salata, chairman of EQT Asia and head of the EQT Private Capital Asia advisory team.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/eqt-raises-1-6-billion-for-asia-fund-india-to-be-key-focus-12733814.html>

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	83.147	0.031	NIFTY 50	22,943.75	11.30
EURINR	90.457	0.199	BSE Sensex	75,393.64	3.14
GBPINR	106.258	0.11			
JPYINR	53.03	0.0593			