

Top Story 1

Gross FDI in India rises 25.7% in H1FY25; net FDI moderates to \$3.6 bn

Gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India during April–September 2024 (H1FY25) grew by 25.7 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$42.1 billion, up from \$33.5 billion in the same period last year, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, net FDI—calculated as inflows minus outflows—moderated to \$3.6 billion during H1FY25, compared to \$3.9 billion in the same period last year. The decline was attributed to an increase in repatriation and outward FDI, as detailed in the RBI’s November 2024 bulletin. Repatriation or disinvestment by investors who had made direct investments in India rose to \$27.8 billion in the first six months of FY25, up from \$23.1 billion during April–August 2023. Outward FDI during April–September 2024 stood at \$10.7 billion, compared to \$6.5 billion in the same period of FY24.

Top Story 2

India's UPI surpasses world's leading digital payment platforms with this 'record'

Unified Payments Interface, or UPI, processed nearly Rs 81 lakh crore transactions in the April-July period this year, surpassing world's leading digital payments platforms, a report has said. This transaction number converts to a 37% increase on a year-over-year (YoY) basis. As per global payments hub Paysecure, UPI processed 3,729.1 transactions per second, which is a 58% surge over the 2,348 transactions every second registered in 2022. With this data, UPI surpassed China's Alipay, Paypal and Brazil's PIX in the number of transactions processed. Paysecure also added that UPI processed 117.6 billion transactions in 2023 – the highest in the world. In July, UPI processed Rs 20.6 lakh crore worth of transactions – marking the highest-ever monthly transaction value for UPI, surpassing the Rs 20 lakh crore mark for the third consecutive month.

Finance: -

RBI buys a net \$8.52 billion in first half of FY25, says bulletin

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was a net buyer of dollars in the first half of the current financial year (April-September) with \$8.52 billion purchased during the period. In the first half of the previous financial year, the central bank had bought a net \$17.68 billion worth of the foreign currency. In the current calendar year up to September, RBI had bought a net \$32.27 billion. The RBI bought a net \$9.6 billion worth of foreign currency. During the period, the central bank bought a net total of \$28.9 billion, while it sold \$19.2 billion of foreign currency. The central bank had recorded a net sale of \$6.49 billion in the spot market in August.

Digitalization: -

India fostering creator economy to highlight culture, heritage, innovation

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on recently said India was focused on developing the content creators' economy, showcasing the country's rich heritage and culture, and diversity of languages and literature. In his video address at the inaugural event of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Vaishnaw said with the addition of technology and the development of the creator ecosystem, India can play a major role in the media and entertainment sector globally. "We in India at this point in time are very much focused on developing content creators' economy. We have a very vibrant creators' economy where people are coming up with very innovative content showcasing some of the very rich heritage of India, the cuisines of India, the culture of India and the gems of Indian language and literature," he said. Vaishnaw said India's creative economy has emerged as a USD 30 billion industry, contributing nearly 2.5% of GDP and providing livelihood to eight per cent of the workforce.

Investment: -

India-Egypt Bilateral Trade and Investment

India and Egypt's bilateral economic relationship is deeply rooted in historical and strategic cooperation. Anchored by the 1978 Bilateral Trade Agreement based on the Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause, their partnership has flourished into a robust economic collaboration. Over the past decade, bilateral trade has grown fivefold, reflecting the dynamism and mutual benefits of this enduring relationship. Both nations continue to explore new avenues for cooperation in trade, investment, science, and sustainable development. India and Egypt have consistently enhanced their trade relations, reaching a bilateral trade volume of US\$6.06 billion in FY 2022-23. India exported goods worth US\$4.11 billion and imported goods valued at US\$1.95 billion, maintaining a significant trade surplus.

Economy: -

Indian Economy Capable Of Handling Global Shocks: RBI Governor

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that the Indian economy is strong enough to handle any adverse fallout from global events. "Today, the growth of the Indian economy presents a picture of stability and strength," Das said while addressing an event at the launch of the Kochi International Foundation here. The country's external sector is also strong and the current account deficit (CAD) has remained within manageable limits as it presently stands at 1.1 per cent of GDP. Earlier, in 2010 and 2011, it was in the range of six to seven per cent, he added. The central bank chief also pointed out that India has one of the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about \$675 billion. He further stated that the country's inflation was expected to be moderate despite periodic humps.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	84.473	0.118	NIFTY 50	23,346.45	-172.05
EURINR	89	0.039	BSE Sensex	77,123.15	-455.23
GBPINR	106.829	0.077			
JPYINR	54.5789	0.2962			