

Top Story 1

India's GDP boost: From agriculture to rural finance

India's GDP is driven by two major sectors: agriculture and allied activities, and MSMEs, which are predominantly based in semi-urban and rural areas. Therefore, policies supporting the sector need a rural focus. For instance, banks' agriculture-oriented priority sector lending (PSL) requirements should shift to rural sector PSL. This change could drive an additional ₹10 lakh cr in bank lending to rural India. Currently, 70% of rural districts have a credit-to-deposit ratio below 10%. All rural loans should meet rural sector PSL requirements. Financing for personal needs and consumer durables allows farmers to reserve cash for sowing needs. Viewing agricultural finance separately from rural finance and credit needs requires a shift in mindset. This approach will promote deeper credit penetration by banks and enhance financial inclusion for growth.

Top Story 2

India's Private sector Bank introduces new UPI and CBDC features

India's Private sector bank has introduced new features for the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), developed in collaboration with various fintech partners. These additions are designed to improve the digital banking experience of users by enhancing convenience, security, and user accessibility. The newly launched features include UPI Circle-Delegate Payment, personalised experiences on UPI, and user-level programmable CBDC. These features were unveiled at the Global Fintech Fest 2024 in Mumbai, where the Bank worked with fintech companies PayU to roll out the offerings. Regarding these new developments, representatives from Bank highlighted that the bank has consistently prioritised innovation to improve banking experiences. They stated that these new UPI features are intended to make digital transactions more user-friendly and secure. Over the years, the india's private sector Bank's partnerships with various fintechs have enabled the creation of solutions designed for the needs of a broad customer base, ranging from urban centres to remote areas.

Economy: -

World Bank hikes India's economic growth projection to 7% for FY 2024-25

The World Bank has revised its growth projection for India, increasing it from 6.6% to 7% for the financial year 2024–2025. This adjustment is detailed in the latest report titled "India Development Update: India's Trade Opportunities in a Changing Global Context," which was released on recently. The report sheds light on several positive aspects of the Indian economy, indicating that the country is on a stronger growth trajectory than previously anticipated. The World Bank attributes this upward revision to multiple factors, including robust domestic demand, resilient economic activity, and favorable global conditions. Additionally, India's trade opportunities have expanded in the changing global landscape, further boosting the economy's outlook. These developments have collectively contributed to the World Bank's more optimistic forecast, reinforcing confidence in India's economic resilience and growth potential for the upcoming financial year.

Finance: -

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Digitalization: -

International platform Expands UPI Partnership in India with New Payment Features

The international platform has expanded its partnership with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), introducing several new features on its online payment platform to make digital payments more accessible and convenient. Announced during the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, these enhancements aim to streamline how users in India engage with digital finance. One of the most notable additions is the UPI Circle feature on the online Pay platform, designed to simplify digital transactions for users' loved ones. This feature is particularly beneficial for individuals who may not have a bank account linked to UPI or are hesitant to use digital payments due to limited access to banking services. "While UPI has undeniably simplified digital transactions for millions, there's still a segment of the population that relies on cash and/or is hesitant to use UPI due to various reasons, including limited access to banking services," the blog post said.

Investment: -

Invest in India and invest in Russia

It is well-known that in recent years India has made substantial progress in Ease of Doing Business rankings and, importantly, in letting the world know about its investment opportunities. Under the influence of global trends and a combination of internal difficulties the volume of FDI in India has been on decline lately, presenting a concern to India's economists and government officials. The long-term trend, however, is positive. As part of India's consistent efforts to present its diverse investment opportunities internationally, a major investment forum took place in Moscow a few months back, demonstrating to the Russian business circles India's open-to-business sectors such as railways, ports, shipbuilding, chemicals and many others.

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