

Top Story 1

India's Digital Currency Will Change Transactions in 2025

India's financial ecosystem is poised for a significant shift in 2025 with the expansion of the RBI's Digital Rupee (CBDC). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is accelerating efforts to drive adoption, positioning the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) as a game-changer in digital payments. With its seamless, secure, and cost-effective transactions, the Digital Rupee aims to reduce reliance on cash while offering a robust alternative to UPI and cryptocurrencies. By integrating CBDC into mainstream financial services, the RBI seeks to enhance financial inclusion, improve transaction efficiency, and strengthen monetary policy control. Businesses and consumers alike stand to benefit from instant settlements, reduced fraud risks, and enhanced transparency. As India moves towards a cash-lite economy, the Digital Rupee is set to redefine the payments landscape, fostering innovation while ensuring regulatory oversight. The year 2025 marks a crucial milestone in India's journey towards a digital-first financial future.

Top Story 2

RBI focus to shift from inflation to India's growth

Inflation in India is expected to remain closer to the 4-per cent target over the next three quarters, according to Care Ratings, which recently said that while growth momentum rebounded in the third quarter (Q3) of fiscal 2024-25 (FY25), it remains below potential. The growth rate in Q3 FY25 was 6.2 per cent—up from 5.6 per cent in Q2 FY25. Moreover, external factors such as global policy uncertainty, risks from reciprocal tariffs, slower global growth and geopolitical tensions will continue to pose challenges to domestic growth momentum, the domestic rating agency noted. The upcoming monetary policy meeting of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April will take place amid a significant moderation in headline inflation over recent months, it said.

Economy: -

India's Economy to Grow at 6.5% in FY26

India's economy is set to expand at a rate of 6.5% in the fiscal year 2025-26, continuing its steady growth momentum. For FY25, real GDP growth is projected at 6.4%, aligning with the revised estimates of the National Statistical Office (NSO). The latest national accounts data indicate that India's real GDP grew by 7.6% in FY23 and 9.2% in FY24, with an expected 6.5% growth in FY25. However, to meet this target, the economy must achieve a 7.6% growth rate in the fourth quarter, which poses a challenge. According to the EY Economy Watch report, achieving this growth would require a significant boost in private consumption expenditure, estimated at 9.9% in the last quarter—something that has not been observed in recent years. As an alternative, the report suggests increasing investment expenditure, particularly through government-led capital spending. Public infrastructure projects and policy support for private investment could play a crucial role in sustaining momentum.

Finance: -

India's economy can double in size and become \$ 7 tn by 2030... next 5 years crucial for India's trajectory

KAUSHIK SHAPARIA, CEO India & Emerging Asia, Deutsche Bank, which has a balance sheet size of Rs 1.45 lakh crore and 23,000 employees, says India has the potential to achieve 7-8% or even higher growth rates. "Instead of comparing growth figures with other economies, India's progress must go beyond mere expansion—it must be anchored in inclusive growth where rising per capita income and structural transformation drive sustainable and equitable prosperity. The next five years will be crucial in determining India's trajectory," he said in an interview to GEORGE MATHEW and SANDEEP SINGH. "It is not difficult for India to double in size and become a US\$ 7 trillion economy by 2030 (from 2023 levels), which can also lead to a doubling of per capita income to about \$ 4,500 by the end of this decade," he says. However, according to him, investors are also cautious about valuations in India, which tend to be higher compared to other markets.

Market: -

India's Economic Growth in 2025: A Game-Changing Year

India is undergoing a transformative phase in 2025, marked by rapid economic expansion, thriving stock markets, and evolving inflation trends. With a projected GDP growth of 6.5% – 7.2%, the nation is poised to become the world's third-largest economy, driven by robust industrial output, digital transformation, and strong consumer demand. Key sectors such as technology, manufacturing, and green energy are witnessing unprecedented growth, attracting global investments. The financial markets are experiencing heightened activity, with increasing retail participation and foreign capital inflows. However, inflation dynamics remain a critical factor, influencing monetary policies and interest rates. Businesses are adapting to emerging opportunities in AI, fintech, and infrastructure development, while investors navigate a dynamic environment of risk and reward. This report delves into sectoral trends, policy impacts, and economic forecasts, providing valuable insights for investors, businesses, and consumers looking to capitalize on India's evolving financial landscape.

Taxation : -

India signs highest-ever international transaction APAs in 2024-25

A record 174 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) were signed with Indian taxpayers in the 2024-25 financial year ending on Monday, the CBDT said. The APA scheme aims to provide tax "certainty" to entities in the area of transfer pricing by specifying pricing methods and determining the arm's length price of international transactions in advance for up to five years. Bilateral APAs offer the added benefit of protection against potential or actual double taxation. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative and policy-making body for the Income-Tax Department, said in a statement that it has entered into a record 174 APAs with Indian taxpayers during the 2024-25 fiscal.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change		Index	Change
USDINR	85.472	0.022	NIFTY 50	23,384.20	-135.15
EURINR	93	0.125	BSE Sensex	76,805.26	-609.66
GBPINR	110.595	0.227			
JPYINR	57.1458	0.1712			