

Top Story 1

Why India May Become the World's 3rd Largest Economy by 2030

India has rapidly risen as a major economic force, showing growth patterns similar to earlier global success stories. Its expanding economic strength is expected to significantly increase its geopolitical influence in the years ahead. Already ranking high in terms of purchasing power, India is poised to surpass several advanced economies in overall GDP soon. A key driver of this momentum is its young and growing workforce, which positions the nation with a demographic advantage many mature economies no longer enjoy. This youthful population not only fuels productivity and innovation but also sustains strong domestic demand, creating a cycle of growth. India's openness to global investment, structural reforms, and focus on reducing barriers to business have further strengthened its position. In contrast, other major economies struggle with aging populations and slowing growth. With its dynamic labor force and expanding consumer base, India is on track to become a leading global economy.

<https://tradebrains.in/why-india-may-become-the-worlds-3rd-largest-economy/>

Top Story 2

Indias forex reserves rise \$4 74 billion to \$693 62 billion

India's foreign exchange reserves recorded a notable rise, climbing by \$4.74 billion to reach \$693.62 billion. In the previous period, the reserves had stood at \$688.87 billion after a decline of \$9.32 billion. The latest increase was driven primarily by growth in multiple components. Foreign currency assets, the largest segment, rose by \$2.37 billion to \$583.98 billion. Gold reserves also witnessed an upward movement, gaining \$2.16 billion to touch \$86.16 billion. Additionally, special drawing rights saw an increase of \$169 million, reaching \$18.74 billion. India's reserve position with the global monetary authority grew by \$45 million to stand at \$4.73 billion. This steady rise in reserves strengthens India's external sector stability, providing a stronger buffer against global uncertainties and market fluctuations. It also reflects confidence in India's macroeconomic fundamentals, while ensuring better coverage for imports and lending resilience to the domestic financial system.

[https://www.capitalmarket.com/markets/news/economy-news/indias-forex-reserves-rise-\\$4-74-billion-to-\\$693-62-billion/1631243](https://www.capitalmarket.com/markets/news/economy-news/indias-forex-reserves-rise-$4-74-billion-to-$693-62-billion/1631243)

Economy

India proposes next-gen GST reforms with simplified two-rate structure, new 40% slab for sin goods

India has put forward a blueprint for next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms aimed at simplifying the tax structure and reducing the burden on households. The proposal introduces a two-rate system of 5% and 18%, along with a new 40% slab for sin goods to balance revenue losses. Essential items such as medicines and medical equipment may see rates drop from 12% to 5% or even nil, while health and life insurance premiums, currently taxed at higher levels, could also be reduced to 5% or nil. This move is expected to ease expenses for the middle class. Additionally, the reforms aim to address inverted duty structures in key sectors like textiles and fertilisers, offering relief to farmers and consumers. The overall approach focuses on simplification while safeguarding revenue, ensuring that essential needs become more affordable while maintaining fiscal stability.

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/economy/india-proposes-gst-reforms-two-rate-structure-new-40-pc-slab-for-sin-goods-wsj-19655461.htm>

Market

India's Projected GDP Growth Surges, Surpassing RBI's Forecast

India's economy is projected to expand by 6.7% in the first quarter of the current fiscal, surpassing the earlier estimate of 6.5%. Although this reflects a slowdown from the previous quarter's 7.4%, growth momentum remains strong. The services sector continues to act as a key driver, registering an impressive 8.3% increase and marking its highest pace in several quarters. In contrast, industrial and agricultural segments show signs of moderation, with growth easing to around 4%. Government spending has been a critical enabler, with higher capital expenditure and greater support from state outlays fuelling project completions and strengthening infrastructure momentum. Improved revenue collections and a rebound in net indirect taxes have further supported fiscal stability. Looking ahead, proposed tax reforms such as GST rationalisation are expected to stimulate urban consumption and provide relief to households, especially during the festive season, sustaining India's growth trajectory.

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/3545957-keralas-coconut-crisis-a-vanishing-legacy>

Finance

Govt mulling further FDI regime easing, more tax benefits for startups

The commerce and industry ministry is preparing a 100-day reforms agenda aimed at accelerating India’s economic growth. The proposals include further liberalising the foreign direct investment (FDI) regime, easing investment rules, offering additional tax benefits for startups, and simplifying regulatory processes. Other measures being considered are streamlining environmental norms, liberalising rules to promote exports through e-commerce hubs, and integrating lab testing and certification requirements across sectors. These reforms are expected to boost both exports and FDI inflows, strengthening India’s trade position. Exports have shown steady growth, while imports continue to rise, widening the trade deficit. At the same time, FDI into India has seen significant year-on-year growth, reflecting investor confidence. The government is positioning these measures as part of a larger vision to place India on a fast-track pathway toward becoming a developed nation, enhancing ease of doing business and improving global competitiveness.

https://www.business-standard.com/amp/finance/news/commerce-ministry-mulls-fdi-easing-more-tax-perks-for-startups-official-125081800886_1.html

Digitalization

India’s Power Infrastructure Keep Up with Its Digital Ambitions

India’s data center capacity is witnessing rapid expansion, projected to grow several times by the end of the decade, fueled by digitalization, 5G adoption, cloud demand, and AI. This growth could see data centers consuming nearly 3% of total electricity, up from less than 1% today. While major hubs are thriving, emerging centers in smaller cities face challenges from frequent outages, voltage instability, and limited grid capacity. The scale of power demand is comparable to large industries, putting added pressure on utilities and infrastructure. Ensuring reliable operations requires a shift toward self-sustained power ecosystems, including microgrids, hybrid renewable sources, battery storage, and intelligent power optimization. Decentralized power distribution can enhance resilience for edge nodes, telecom towers, and smart factories. With ambitious renewable targets and government incentives, operators are increasingly adopting solar, wind, advanced cooling, and energy storage solutions to support sustainable, efficient, and uninterrupted digital infrastructure growth in India.

<https://www.itvoice.in/can-indias-power-infrastructure-keep-up-with-its-digital-ambitions>

Currency	15-Aug-2025 Rate	18-Aug-2025 Rate	Change	Currency	15-Aug-2025 Rate	18-Aug-2025 Rate	Change
USDINR	₹87.5136	₹87.35	-0.1636 ₹ Exchange Rates UK+1	NIFTY 50	—	24,876.95	+245.65 pts (+1.00%) Reuters+1
EURINR	₹102.43	₹102.00	-0.43 ₹ Exchange RatesYCharts	BSE Sensex	—	81,273.75	+676.09 pts (+0.84%) Reuters+1
GBPINR	₹118.66	₹117.92	-0.74 ₹				
JPYINR	-	-	-				