

## Top Story 1

### **Union Budget 2025: Major Announcements for Growth & Relief**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025, focusing on middle-class tax relief, economic growth, and self-reliance. The revised income tax slabs offer significant rebates, easing financial burdens. The budget introduces new schemes for MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, farmers, and education, fostering inclusive development. Export promotion initiatives aim to strengthen India's global trade position. The Economic Survey projected a 6.3-6.8% growth rate for the next fiscal year, emphasizing the "Viksit Bharat@2047" vision for India's long-term prosperity. To achieve developed-nation status by 2047, sustained 8% annual growth is targeted. Experts welcomed the budget's focus on economic resilience and opportunities for businesses and individuals. Overall, the announcements align with India's self-reliance and digitalization goals, reinforcing economic progress.

## Top Story 2

### **India's Economy on Track to Reach \$4 Trillion**

India's economic growth remains strong, with expectations to surpass the \$4 trillion mark by the next financial year. At the 2025 Davos meeting, India's progress was recognized globally, reinforcing its position as a trusted hub for manufacturing, innovation, and tourism. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is expected to rise, further boosting growth. Strategic policies focusing on investment, infrastructure, and economic reforms have played a key role in driving expansion. India's commitment to long-term development aligns with its vision for 2047, aiming for a developed economy with strong manufacturing, technology, and social infrastructure. The resilience shown in overcoming past challenges has positioned the country for sustained progress. With growing global confidence, India continues its journey toward economic leadership.

## Tax

### **New Tax Regime to Benefit Over 90% of Taxpayers**

The revised tax slabs announced in the Union Budget 2025 are expected to encourage over 90% of taxpayers to opt for the new tax regime. With the exemption limit raised from ₹7 lakh to ₹12 lakh per annum and a ₹75,000 standard deduction for salaried individuals, financial relief is set to increase significantly. Taxpayers earning up to ₹25 lakh annually could save as much as ₹1.1 lakh under the new structure. These provisions ensure benefits across all income brackets, making taxation simpler and more rewarding. The changes align with the government's commitment to ease financial pressure and enhance disposable income, supporting economic growth. With these progressive reforms, more individuals are expected to experience substantial tax savings in the coming years.

## Investment

### **India to Allow 100% FDI in Insurance, Boosting Growth**

India has proposed raising the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%, provided the entire premium collected is invested within the country. This move is expected to attract fresh capital, strengthen the industry, and drive economic growth. Industry experts have welcomed the proposal, highlighting its potential to enhance financial stability, introduce global best practices, and improve customer service. Increased FDI will also accelerate the adoption of innovative insurance products and expand industry participation, leading to greater insurance penetration in India. With a strong push for investment, infrastructure development, and economic progress, the decision aligns with India's long-term vision of becoming a global financial hub while ensuring domestic economic benefits.

## **Digitalization**

### **UPI Growth Strengthened by New Standardized Rules**

India's digital payment system continues its remarkable expansion, now accounting for 83% of total digital payments, a significant rise from 34% in 2019. In January 2024, nearly 17 billion transactions worth ₹23.48 lakh crore were processed, reflecting widespread adoption. To enhance efficiency, new rules have been introduced from February, 2024, standardizing transaction IDs to a fixed 35-character alphanumeric format. This move ensures greater security, seamless processing, and uniformity across platforms, strengthening the digital payment ecosystem. Payment service providers and developers are swiftly adapting, further reinforcing reliability and ease of use. These enhancements pave the way for smoother transactions and continued financial inclusion, solidifying the country's leadership in digital payments.

## **Market**

### **Markets Steady Amid Budget Announcements, Consumer Sectors Gain**

Despite initial market caution, the latest Budget has brought positive momentum to key sectors, with FMCG, real estate, and consumer-driven industries showing strong performance, benefiting from tax-cut measures. While infrastructure, oil & gas, and energy sectors saw mild fluctuations, the overall market remained stable, reflecting investor confidence in long-term growth. Experts highlight that corporate earnings remain steady, and while foreign investments are adjusting to global shifts, India continues to attract strong domestic inflows. Emerging opportunities in consumer-driven industries and policy-driven incentives are expected to sustain market resilience. With ongoing economic reforms and increasing local investor participation, market sentiment is poised to improve. As structural growth measures take effect, the outlook remains optimistic for sustained progress in key sectors.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change
USDINR	87.133	0.57	NIFTY 50	23,285.00
EURINR	89.831	0.138	BSE Sensex	76,971.92
GBPINR	106.945	0.335		
JPYINR	0.5636	0.0045		