

Top Story 1

India puts up big show at Davos, returns with Rs 20 lakh cr investment commitments

As the five-day World Economic Forum Annual Meeting ended on Friday, Indian leaders said they could see trust for India in eyes of all global leaders and that was reflected in investment commitments totaling over Rs 20 lakh crore with Maharashtra grabbing the biggest pie of almost 80 per cent. The union minister, who led the largest ever Indian delegation of five Union ministers and several leaders from states including three chief ministers, said trust and talent are the biggest factors attracting the world to India. All states and central government departments shared space for the first time at two India Pavilions and a joint press conference was held for the first time by state and Union ministers, coming from half a dozen different parties to put up a unified 'Team India' face.

Top Story 2

Union Minister explains India's 'thought-through plan' to become developed nation

Union Minister on Thursday said that India has a well thought-through economic strategy at the moment which will help the country to achieve its dream of becoming a developed nation by the year 2047. "India has a very well thought-through economic strategy at the moment. The strategy is based on four pillars: One, public investment in social and physical infrastructure. Two, focus on technology manufacturing and innovation. Three, inclusive growth. Four, simplification," the Union Minister for Railways and Information & Technology said. This year's budget is going into physical, digital and social infrastructure. Physical infrastructure includes the railways, highways, the transmission lines, the ports, the airports. Social infrastructure includes building new hospitals, schools, universities. Digital infrastructure includes rolling out 5G services, optical fiber connecting even the last village of the country

Tax

Budget 2025 Expectations: Companies seek tax reforms, lower GST rates and capex allocation from FM

Corporate India is seeking tax reforms, lower GST rates, regulatory updates, and anticipating various capex allocation announcements in Finance Minister eighth Budget speech in February, 2025. Taxpayers are keenly watching for some relief for the middleclass amid the current economic situation. From ordinary taxpayers to tech, healthcare, insurance, and finance sectors, in Sitharaman's eighth Budget speech, expectations are high for significant announcements aimed at reviving the economy, the job market, and boosting consumer sentiments. The first part of the Parliament's Budget session is confirmed to begin in January and conclude in February, 2025. And the second part of the session will commence in March and conclude in April, 2025.

Banking

RBI's Proactive Measures Signal Strengthening of Liquidity Management Framework

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken significant steps to address liquidity concerns raised by bankers, NBFC leaders, and corporates, reflecting its proactive and dynamic approach to monetary policy. While tight liquidity has emerged as a key issue, the central bank has demonstrated its commitment to maintaining financial stability and supporting economic growth through decisive action. In a remarkable move, the RBI recently deployed its full arsenal of liquidity management tools in a single day. It purchased ₹10,000 crore worth of bonds through Open Market Operations (OMO) while providing ₹1.62 lakh crore via 14-day repo and ₹2 lakh crore through daily repo operations. These measures underscore the RBI's ability to adapt quickly to market needs and ensure adequate liquidity in the system.

Economic

India's digital economy to contribute one-fifth of GDP by 2030

India's digital economy is projected to grow nearly twice as fast as the overall economy, contributing close to one-fifth of the nation's income by 2030. This is according to the report titled "*Estimation and Measurement of India's Digital Economy*" released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The report provides key insights to help align resources and adopt targeted growth strategies. In the short term, growth will be driven by digital intermediaries, platforms, and increased digital adoption across various sectors. In 2022-23, the digital economy supported 14.67 million workers, making up 2.55% of India's total workforce. While the estimates are conservative due to limited data on smaller digital platforms and informal sectors, the continued digitalization of traditional industries such as health and logistics is expected to unlock even greater potential in the future.

Finance

Union Budget 2025: What to expect in taxes, infrastructure & green growth

Tax reforms: The government is anticipated to introduce extensive tax reforms aimed at benefiting both the middle class and corporate sector. There is a strong possibility of revisions in income tax slabs under the new regime, potentially offering increased exemptions and relief to taxpayers.

Green growth: The Budget is expected to prioritize initiatives focused on green growth, encompassing renewable energy, electric mobility, and sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, incentives for businesses and individuals adopting eco-friendly measures may be introduced to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable economy.

Infrastructure push: With a growing young workforce, the government is likely to increase budget allocations for infrastructure projects, including smart cities, national highways, and rural connectivity. Investments in these sectors are expected to create employment opportunities and drive economic growth.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change
USDINR	86.346	0.146	NIFTY 50	22,859.60
EURINR	90.400	0	BSE Sensex	75,473.67
GBPINR	107.562	0.066		
JPYINR	0.5557	0.0044		

