

## Top Story 1

### **India's Budget 2025 Focuses on Economic Revival Amid 5.4% Growth**

India's GDP growth stood at 5.4% in the July-September quarter, reflecting a period of economic adjustment. However, the upcoming Budget 2025 aims to accelerate growth by focusing on key sectors such as manufacturing, consumption, and employment generation. Policymakers are expected to introduce measures to strengthen domestic demand, support industries, and enhance job creation. With an emphasis on infrastructure development and incentives for businesses, the government is working to create a robust foundation for sustained growth. Experts believe that targeted policy interventions, coupled with strong global interest in India's markets, will contribute to a steady economic rebound. As investment-friendly reforms take shape, India remains on track for long-term expansion, reinforcing confidence in its economic potential.

## Top Story 2

### **UPI's Share in India's Digital Payments Surged To 83%**

The share of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India's digital payments has surged from 34 per cent in 2019 to an impressive 83 per cent in 2024, with a remarkable CAGR (cumulative average growth rate) of 74 per cent over the last five years, according to the RBI's payment system report. In contrast, share of other payment systems like RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, credit cards, debit cards, etc. in digital payments volume declined from 66 per cent to 17 per cent during the same period, the report states. UPI has been the most significant contributor to the growth of digital payments in India due to its usefulness and ease of use, the report points out. At a macro level, the volume of UPI transactions increased from 375 crore in 2018 to 17,221 crore in 2024, whereas the total value of transactions surged from ₹5.86 lakh crore in 2018 to ₹246.83 lakh crore in 2024.

## **Economic**

### **RBI's Liquidity Boost to Strengthen Economy and Banking System**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a series of proactive measures to enhance liquidity in the banking system, ensuring financial stability and supporting economic growth. These steps will provide ample funds to banks, boost lending capacity, and promote economic activity across key sectors. The RBI will conduct Open Market Operations (OMO) purchase auctions worth ₹60,000 crore in three tranches, a 56-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction of ₹50,000 crore on February 7, and a USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap auction of \$5 billion on January 31. These measures will help manage liquidity effectively, support businesses, and maintain a stable financial environment. With the central bank closely monitoring market conditions, India's economy remains well-positioned for sustained growth and resilience.

## **Finance**

### **Fintech Startups Driving Financial Inclusion Across India**

India's fintech sector is making remarkable strides in expanding financial inclusion, bringing banking and digital financial services to underserved regions. Startups are leveraging innovative technologies to provide easy access to credit, digital payments, and financial literacy programs, empowering millions. With strong regulatory support and increasing digital adoption, fintech firms are bridging the gap between traditional banking and modern financial needs. From instant microloans to secure digital transactions, these startups are ensuring that individuals and small businesses across rural and semi-urban areas benefit from seamless financial services. As India continues its journey toward a more inclusive economy, the role of fintech in driving accessibility and economic empowerment is set to grow significantly, making financial services more affordable and efficient for all.

## Market

### **Sensex Surges 500 Points: Market Optimism Drives Strong Gains**

Indian stock markets bounced back on January 28, with the Sensex and Nifty 50 posting solid gains, fueled by investor confidence and positive economic indicators. The Sensex climbed 535 points to close at 75,901.41, while the Nifty 50 gained 128 points, settling at 22,957.25. Key drivers behind the market rally included strong corporate earnings, favorable global cues, and robust domestic demand. Banking and IT stocks led the surge, while foreign institutional inflows added momentum. Despite mid and small-cap segments seeing some correction, the broader market outlook remains positive, reflecting strong economic fundamentals. With renewed investor enthusiasm and supportive policy measures, analysts expect continued resilience in the Indian stock market, reinforcing optimism for long-term growth.

## Digitalization

### **Fintech Firm Expands Access to India's Digital Currency**

In a significant step towards digital financial inclusion, a leading fintech platform has become the first to offer access to India's central bank digital currency (CBDC), the e-rupee. Previously, only banks could provide access when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the pilot in December 2022. However, with the RBI allowing payment firms to participate from April 2024, this initiative marks a major milestone in India's digital transformation. The fintech firm will introduce an e-rupee wallet to select users, collaborating with a partnering bank for seamless issuance of e-rupee tokens. This move aims to enhance digital transactions, offering a secure, efficient, and convenient payment method. With this development, India is set to witness a broader adoption of digital currency, reinforcing its position as a leader in fintech innovation.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change
USDINR	86.588	0.004	NIFTY 50	23,113.75
EURINR	90.380	0.066	BSE Sensex	76,338.62
GBPINR	107.819	0.084		
JPYINR	0.5582	0.0015		