

## Top Story 1

### Building a future-ready economy

As the country steps into 2025, the aspirations of its corporate sector – India Inc – are anchored in four overarching priorities: regulatory reforms, technological leadership, fiscal prudence, and measures to boost consumption. These focus areas reflect a collective ambition to propel the nation toward sustained economic growth, global competitiveness, and a robust business ecosystem. A major wish for 2025 is the simplification of regulations and the removal of outdated laws that stifle entrepreneurship. The managing director of India's public sector, underscores the need to end the "Inspector Raj" and streamline bureaucratic processes, creating a more dynamic and innovation-friendly business environment.

## Top Story 2

### **\$5 trillion economy and other miracles Narendra Modi govt has promised for 2025**

Speaking at the BRICS summit held in South Africa in August 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the global economic turmoil had had no impact on the Indian economy. “Soon, India will become a \$5 trillion economy. There is no doubt that India will be the growth engine of the world in the years to come,” Modi had said at the meet. Nine months before Modi’s comments, Union home minister Amit Shah had set a deadline for end-2025 to achieve the target. Days before the summit, addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort during the annual Independence day speech, Modi had said: “It is important to know about this because there are some people who doubt the capabilities of Indians. They are saying it is very difficult to achieve this goal.

**Banking: -**

## **India's Private Bank Launches UPI, Net Banking FD Opening Featur**

One of the largest private sector banks in India, today announced the introduction of a first-of-its-kind feature that enables customers to open Fixed Deposits (FDs) with its mobile application, using funds from their non-Bank accounts via UPI and Net Banking payment options. The Bank is the first private sector bank to introduce this new-age banking feature by leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem, thus creating a seamless banking experience for its customers. With this feature, Bank's ETB (Existing-To-Bank) customers with valid KYC can open a Fixed Deposit with funds from their other bank accounts through UPI or Net Banking payment options. The FD opening will be processed after successful payment completion and receipt of funds from the payment gateway service provider.

**Finance: -**

## **India's Economy On Track For 6.5% Growth**

In an exclusive conversation with , Editor, Business Today, SBI Chairman shared insights on India's GDP growth expectations. Highlighting India's resilience, Setty emphasized that the nation's growth must be viewed in a global context, where the IMF projects a global growth rate of 3.2%, while India aims for around 7%.

Acknowledging a slowdown in the last two quarters, he downplayed concerns over a single quarter's decline, asserting that India's economic potential remains robust. He projected a growth rate of 6.5% for the full year, driven by rural consumption and government expenditure, which he believes signals a strong recovery trajectory.

## **Market: -**

### **Rupee gives up gains to end at 86.89 against \$**

The currency rose to a two-week high of 86.47 in early hours of trading. The Reserve Bank of India likely intervened in the NDF segment, before the spot market opened, driving the rupee to open stronger than expected at 86.457/\$1, traders said. The Indian rupee strengthened to 86.47 during early hours on Recently, but gave up most of its gains to close at 86.89, slightly weaker from its previous close of 86.82. The rupee was pressured by maturity of positions in the non-deliverable forwards (NDF) segment, and equity sales by overseas investors. The currency rose to a two-week high of 86.47 in early hours of trading. The Reserve Bank of India likely intervened in the NDF segment, before the spot market opened, driving the rupee to open stronger than expected at 86.457/\$1, traders said.

## Investment: -

# India, France advance defence ties with R&D framework agreement

India and France have strengthened their defence cooperation, with an agreement between India's DRDO and France's DGA for early launch of R&D framework. Discussions also took place on air and maritime assets, AI governance, and the Pinaka missile system. Both nations aim to harness innovation for mutual growth. India and France recently elevated their defence ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron agreeing for early launch of an R&D framework for cooperation in defence technologies between French state agency DGA and India's DRDO. In addition, both leaders welcomed ongoing talks between France's L'Office National d'Etudes et de Recherches Aérospatiales (ONERA) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to identify technologies for R&D partnerships, according to a joint statement issued after Modi-Macron Summit in Marseilles during the PM's third day of his visit to France.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	86.805	0.014	NIFTY 50	23,183.90	138.65
EURINR	91	0.326	BSE Sensex	76,602.96	431.88
GBPINR	108.636	0.417			
JPYINR	0.5635	0.0007			