

Top Story 1

Lenders get to work as India aims to become a \$5 trillion economy

The overarching theme for the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) regulated entities (REs) will continue to be around governance — be it housekeeping, the role of independent directors, or business models. The recently released RBI report, titled 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India (T&P: FY24)', gives a clear indication of what is in store. Under the process of supervision of banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and other REs, the focus is now on early detection and pre-emptive correction. The enhanced offsite assessment framework is more analytical and forward-looking with the introduction of macro-stress tests, early warning indicators, fraud vulnerability.

Top Story 2

Indian economy expected to grow 6.3-6.8% in 2025-26

India's economy is projected to expand between 6.3 per cent and 6.8 per cent in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), according to the Economic Survey presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on recently. The forecasts are in line with economic growth predictions made by international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank. The IMF has kept India's GDP growth forecast unchanged at 6.5 per cent for FY25 and FY26. The World Bank has maintained a projection of 6.7 per cent. The ADB in December 2024, also revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.5 per cent from 7 per cent. For FY26, the growth forecast was revised to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent. This adjustment reflects weaker-than-expected growth in the July-September quarter, driven by slowdowns in manufacturing and government spending.

Investment: -

India grabs investment commitments worth over ₹20 lakh crore

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, highlighted India's remarkable growth trajectory in an exclusive conversation with Rajya Sabha member Vijay Tankha during a programme on Sansad TV. Discussing India's strides in space, biopharma, governance, and climate action, Dr. Singh credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for transformative reforms that opened the space sector to private investment. He revealed that India's space economy has surged to \$8 billion and is projected to reach \$44 billion in the next decade. Landmark initiatives such as the indigenous Gaganyaan Mission, the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 (2027), Shukrayaan (2028), and the Indian Space Station (2030) underscore the nation's growing dominance in space technology. He praised startups and foreign direct investment (FDI) for driving innovation, with projects like SPADEX enabling advanced docking capabilities and the Vyom Mitra robo mission paving the way for human space exploration.

Economy : -

Economic Survey: 8% growth needed to reach 'Viksit Bharat' goal by 2047

India needs to achieve an average growth rate of around 8 per cent at constant prices for about a decade or two to realise its economic aspirations of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Economic Survey 2024-25, released on Friday, said. "To achieve this growth, the investment rate must rise to around 35 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) from the current 31 per cent. Additionally, it will be essential to develop the manufacturing sector further and invest in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and biotechnology," the Survey said. It further added that India will also need to create 7.85 million new non-farm jobs annually till 2030, achieve 100 per cent literacy, improve the quality of education institutions, and develop high-quality, future-ready infrastructure at scale and speed.

The NITI Aayog, however, in July last year, said India needs to grow at a sustained pace of 7-10 per cent for 20-30 years to escape the middle-income trap and become a developed nation with a per capita income of \$18,000 per annum and the size of a \$30 trillion economy by 2047. For FY26, the Survey projected a growth rate between 6.3 per cent and 6.8 per cent.

Taxation: -

Towards tax transparency

The National Democratic Alliance government began its third term with Budget 2024, unveiling bold policy initiatives focused on job creation, sustainable growth, and technological innovation. As we approach the centennial year of independence, India faces challenges from multiple macroeconomic headwinds, given moderated growth over the past three quarters. Budget 2025 presents an opportune moment to build on policy reforms for strengthening the reform path. Fiscal deficit shall emerge as the central theme, given the 3% target. With muted domestic rural demand, private capex, and geopolitical fragmentation, achieving the fiscal target versus betting on government spending-led growth is what policy shall guide. Much as businesses will vote for betting on growth, the Budget should signal a direction.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	84.453	0.188	NIFTY 50	23,742.95	15.3
EURINR	89	0.012	BSE Sensex	78,456.49	16.38
GBPINR	106.976	0.216	.		
JPYINR	0.5411	0.0011			