

Top Story 1

India's strong growth, tech demand brighten developing Asia prospects:

India's stronger-than-expected economic performance has helped improve growth projections for the broader region for both the current year and the next. A recent outlook update shows regional growth estimates being revised upward due to India's momentum, supported by improving global trade conditions and stronger demand in technology-linked sectors. Although growth is expected to ease slightly next year, the recovery in key export categories is likely to sustain activity while reduced trade uncertainty provides additional stability. The outlook notes that risks remain, including the possibility of renewed trade tensions and financial market volatility. Subregional projections have also strengthened, with South Asia now expected to expand faster than earlier estimated, driven largely by India's better-than-forecast growth. Other parts of the region are also seeing marginal improvements, though they continue to face challenges related to global uncertainty, climate events, and domestic conditions. Overall, India's performance is contributing significantly to a more optimistic regional growth scenario.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-strong-growth-tech-demand-brighten-developing-asia-prospects-ADB-125121000081_1.html

Top Story 2

India Economy Review: Strong GDP Growth Meets IMF 'Grade C' Shock

India's recent economic indicators point to strong underlying momentum, not just a temporary rebound. GDP expanded by 8.2%, supported by an increase in real value added across key sectors, rising from ₹82.88 lakh crore to ₹89.41 lakh crore. This shows that growth is driven by genuine output improvements rather than higher prices. Nominal GDP grew by 8.8%, reflecting that inflation stayed contained, while household spending strengthened with a 7.9% rise in private consumption. Agriculture recorded steady growth due to improved water availability and better crop output, contributing to an uptick in rural incomes. Together, these numbers suggest that India's economy is advancing even as global conditions remain uncertain. However, this positive picture is tempered by concerns raised in a recent external assessment, where India received a lower grade for the quality of its national income accounting. This highlights the need for more robust statistical systems to complement the strong economic performance.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/82-growth-is-good-now-read-fine-print-3825857>

Economy

India, EU hold intense talks on FTA: Govt

India has recently engaged in intensive discussions to accelerate progress on a long-pending free trade agreement. According to the official statement, both sides reviewed developments across multiple negotiation areas and acknowledged the steady advancement of talks. They agreed on the importance of maintaining the current pace through continuous engagement. Technical teams held detailed consultations in New Delhi on topics such as market access, rules governing the origin of goods, trade in services, and standards and regulations affecting trade. Discussions also covered sustainability-related provisions to ensure that the agreement supports long-term economic and environmental objectives. Both sides highlighted the strategic value of finalising a fair, balanced and comprehensive agreement that aligns with shared economic priorities and strengthens a transparent, rules-based trading system. The recent round of talks has reinforced a joint commitment to move swiftly toward conclusion of the pact, with the expectation that remaining areas of negotiation will be addressed constructively.

Market

RBI MPC meeting 2025: Repo rate cut by 25 bps, now at 5.25%

The central bank announced a reduction of 25 basis points in the policy repo rate, bringing it to 5.25 per cent. The decision followed a multi-day review by the monetary policy committee, which assessed the overall economic environment and future outlook before unanimously agreeing to ease the rate. The committee noted that the economy has shown strong momentum, supported by solid growth and easing inflation. Retail inflation has fallen to notably low levels, helping create space for monetary accommodation. This move marks a shift from earlier policy guidance, where the benchmark rate had been maintained amid evolving domestic and global conditions. The rate cut is expected to enhance liquidity, support borrowing, and reinforce economic activity at a time when growth indicators remain resilient and price pressures continue to moderate. The announcement concludes the latest review cycle, setting the tone for a more supportive monetary stance going forward.

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/rbi-mpc-meeting-2025-repo-rate-cut-by-25-bps-now-at-525/ar-AA1RKGvU>

Finance

India drives last-mile financial inclusion with post office modernization

India has introduced an indigenous digital system to enhance financial and service delivery across its national post office network. The platform, developed and hosted within India's digital infrastructure, is designed to be agile, scalable, and adaptable to future requirements. It has already been deployed across a large number of post offices and is integrated with core banking functions to support seamless financial operations. Thousands of branches now operate on a unified banking system, improving efficiency and reach. As part of this modernization, branch offices have been equipped with smartphones running a dedicated application to deliver financial services, while field staff use biometric devices for secure authentication. The initiative aims to improve connectivity, strengthen service delivery, and enhance user experience, particularly in rural regions where access to banking and identity-linked services is limited. Through this upgraded system, users can access account services, digital payments, identity-based transactions, and various supportive services from a single platform.

<https://www.biometricupdate.com/202512/india-drives-last-mile-financial-inclusion-with-post-office-modernization>

Taxation

After income tax and GST, Modi government is now planning major changes in tax-payers will now

India is preparing major reforms to simplify and modernize its taxation system, focusing particularly on the customs framework. After recent improvements in the direct tax and GST structures, the government now aims to make customs more transparent, efficient, and easier to comply with. The objective is to reduce complexity, remove unnecessary delays, and make processes more predictable for individuals and businesses. The planned reforms aim to replicate the transparency and technology-driven practices used in the revamped income tax system. This includes reducing physical intervention, using digital tools to speed up goods clearance, and ensuring fair, consistent procedures. The approach also involves rationalizing customs duty rates to streamline the structure and support smoother trade. These changes are expected to boost confidence, lower compliance burdens, and support economic activity. Announcements on the comprehensive overhaul are likely to be included in the next national budget, reflecting India's continued push toward tax modernization.

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/news/after-income-tax-and-gst-modi-government-is-now-planning-major-changes-in-tax-payers-will-now/ar-AA1RSMQt?ocid=finance-verthp-feeds>

Metric	9-Dec-2025 Rate	10-Dec-2025 Rate	Change
USDINR	₹89.84	₹89.90	+0.06 ₹
EURINR	₹105.00	Data NA	—
GBPINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
JPYINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
NIFTY 50	25,844.20	25,911.00	6

