

Top Story 1

Nirmala Sitharaman in London: India-UK Economic Dialogue, Investment Opportunities

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in London recently evening at the start of a six-day official tour of Europe from April 2025, which will also cover Austria. The Ministry of Finance announced her arrival with a social media post after the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Vikram Doraiswami, received the minister at Heathrow Airport. Sitharaman is scheduled to kick-start her UK visit with an in-conversation session at the High Commission of India in London in partnership with the London School of Economics (LSE) recently. This will be followed by the 13th Ministerial Round of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) with her UK counterpart, Chancellor Rachel Reeves, on Wednesday. Both leaders are expected to announce and launch various reports and new initiatives for further bilateral collaborations, according to an official pre-visit Indian government statement.

Top Story 2

India likely to meet 6.3-6.8% growth forecast for FY26 despite US tariffs

India is likely to achieve its projected 6.3-6.8% economic growth in 2025-26, even as it assesses the potential impact of the global trade war and a financial market slide in the aftermath of the Trump administration's "reciprocal tariffs" last week, senior officials said recently. The growth projection, firmed up in the Economic Survey in late January, had factored in the impact of some external headwinds. But the latest US move on imposition of reciprocal tariffs has necessitated a fresh assessment once the precise impact of the global tariff war on India's exports and the broader economy becomes clear, the officials said. The US has announced a 26% tariff on its imports from India, which would kick in from April 2025.

Market: -

Need to accelerate India, US trade pact talks: Experts

India should accelerate discussions for the proposed bilateral trade agreement with the US as the deal could help secure preferential market access, improve investor protections, and encourage technology partnerships between the two countries, experts said . They also said that the pact is critical for India to address long-standing non-tariff barriers in sectors like chemicals, telecom equipment, and medical devices, which were explicitly flagged in the US tariff statement. Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for standards and testing protocols could be a strategic step forward in reducing regulatory friction and improving market access in these sensitive sectors, they added. Even though the new US tariffs might put short-term pressure on India's key export sectors, the broader strategic landscape offers significant long-term advantages, Rudra Kumar Pandey, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, said.

Investment: -

UAE, India: Firm vision for strengthening strategic partnerships

The upcoming visit of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence, to the Republic of India tomorrow, reflects the UAE's steadfast vision of fostering strategic partnerships with emerging economic powers. It also reaffirms the UAE's position as a dynamic global partner in development, investment, and knowledge exchange. Sheikh Hamdan's visit to New Delhi embodies a forward-looking approach rooted in innovation, economic openness, and international cooperation—the same vision that has transformed Dubai into a global economic hub known for its diversity and leadership in shaping the future. During this visit, the UAE's ambitious model, admired worldwide for its futuristic outlook, intersects with India's vast potential as the world's fifth-largest economy, equipped with immense human and technological resources. The visit holds strategic significance amid global transformations, underscoring the UAE's pivotal role in promoting cooperation for a better world. Partnering with India, with its robust technological infrastructure, marks a practical step in the UAE's efforts to lead the digital and technological landscape.

Digitalization: -

India ranks 3rd highest-funded fintech startup ecosystem globally in Q1 2025

India secured the third position globally in terms of funding raised for the fintech sector in Q1 2025, following the US and the UK, a report showed . A majority of the funding in this space has been seen in the late-stage rounds. Late-stage funding witnessed a 47 per cent increase to \$227 million in January-March period, compared to \$154 million raised in Q4 2024, said the report by Tracxn, a leading market intelligence platform. The first quarter of this year witnessed a total funding of \$366 million. March was the most funded month of the quarter, with \$187 million raised, accounting for 51 per cent of the total funds. The Indian economy faced bearish stock trends, US-imposed tariffs, global trade tensions, and rising inflation discouraging venture capital inflows. Despite these challenges, India's GDP growth for FY 2025 is projected to remain resilient at approximately 6.5 per cent. Furthermore, the rising acceptance of UPI beyond Indian borders in countries like Singapore, Nepal, and Sri Lanka presents a significant opportunity for Indian fintech players to expand operations overseas and attract more capital into the sector, according to the report.

Curreny	Rate (Rs)	Change		Index	Change
USDINR	85.856	0.002	NIFTY 50	22,646.90	485.3
EURINR	94	0.626	BSE Sensex	74,698.09	1,560.20
GBPINR	109.876	-0.336			
JPYINR	58.4672	0.2749			