

Top Story 1

With resilient Q1 growth, Indian economy 'steady as she goes' in FY26

The first quarter of FY26 reflects resilient domestic supply and demand fundamentals, with inflation within target and a favorable monsoon providing a strong start. Macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust, supported by healthy domestic demand, fiscal prudence, and accommodative monetary policy, positioning the nation among the fastest-growing major economies. GDP growth for FY26 is projected between 6.2% and 6.5%. Financial markets remain stable, aided by strong domestic participation and a sound banking sector, with asset quality at multi-decade highs. Growth is being driven by robust services, manufacturing, and agriculture, with the latter benefiting from early, above-normal rainfall, adequate fertiliser supply, and high reservoir levels. Rural income prospects are strong, with most households expecting growth in the coming year. However, global economic slowdown, tariff uncertainties, slow credit expansion, and limited private investment may moderate acceleration. Structural shifts in global supply chains present opportunities but require strategic focus to strengthen long-term economic positioning

<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/with-resilient-q1-growth-indian-economy-steady-as-she-goes-in-fy26-centre/>

Top Story 2

Today, we're 4th largest economy

A prominent parliamentarian recently celebrated India's emergence as the **world's fourth-largest economy**, underscoring its rapid ascent from past eras of economic softness. He highlighted that millions have been lifted from extreme poverty and pointed to India's dominance across strategic domains—accounting for nearly half of global digital transactions and drawing half its power from clean energy sources. India now plays a leadership role in international forums, co-chairing global summits like those on artificial intelligence. The speaker emphasized that the country has shed its earlier image as a "soft state," citing assertive defence posture, strategic deterrence actions, and growing diplomatic influence. He noted that global investors view India as a key alternative for industrial engagement compared to China. These remarks reinforce a narrative of **economic, strategic, and soft-power strength**, positioning India as an influential player poised to become a global growth engine in the coming decade.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/today-4th-largest-economy-days-over-india-considered-soft-state-sudhanshu-trivedi-10154098/>

Economy

India Records Over 65,000 Crore Digital Transactions Worth Rs 12,000 Lakh Crore From FY20 to FY25

In the last six financial years, over 65,000 crore digital transactions amounting to more than ₹12,000 lakh crore have been recorded, reflecting rapid growth in adoption, infrastructure, and performance. The Payments Infrastructure Development Fund has facilitated the deployment of 4.77 crore digital touchpoints, especially in smaller cities and underserved regions, enhancing access to financial services. Initiatives such as rationalising Merchant Discount Rates, enabling MSMEs to access competitive invoice discounts through digital platforms, and incentivising low-value transactions have supported small businesses in embracing digital payments. Platforms like UPI have empowered citizens, including small vendors and rural users, to reduce cash dependency, expand customer bases, and participate in the formal economy. This surge in digital transactions has not only improved efficiency but also created a robust financial footprint, enabling greater access to formal credit channels. The trend signifies a major step toward financial inclusion, economic empowerment, and sustainable digital growth across the nation.

<https://zeenews.india.com/economy/india-records-over-65000-crore-digital-transactions-worth-rs-12000-lakh-crore-from-fy20-to-fy25-2938237.html>

Market

Digital payments in India see 10.7% growth

India's digital payments ecosystem is maintaining strong growth momentum, with transactions rising steadily year-on-year, as reflected in the Digital Payments Index (DPI). The index, which tracks the pace and penetration of digital payments, has shown significant improvement, driven by robust advancements in payment infrastructure—particularly on the supply side—and enhanced overall payment performance. It measures adoption across five key parameters: payment enablers, demand-side infrastructure, supply-side infrastructure, payment performance, and consumer centricity. The sustained rise in the index highlights deeper digitisation and greater financial inclusion, supported by improved access, faster transaction speeds, and growing consumer trust in digital payment platforms. This progress indicates that more individuals and businesses are adopting digital transactions, reducing reliance on cash and expanding participation in the formal financial ecosystem. With ongoing infrastructure expansion, supportive policy measures, and rising user confidence, digital payments are set to play an increasingly vital role in strengthening India's financial landscape and economic growth trajectory.

<https://www.storyboard18.com/digital/digital-payments-in-india-see-10-7-growth-rbi-index-77533.htm>

Finance

Over 650 billion transactions in 6 years drive financial inclusion in India, says MoS Finance

Over the past six years, India has recorded more than 65,000 crore digital transactions, amounting to over ₹12,000 lakh crore, supported by the deployment of around 4.77 crore digital touch points under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF). The government, along with financial institutions, fintechs, and state authorities, has been working to increase digital payment adoption, especially in smaller cities and rural areas. The Reserve Bank’s Digital Payments Index, based on March 2018 as the base year, reached 465.33 in its latest release, reflecting strong growth in adoption, infrastructure, and performance. Initiatives such as incentives for low-value UPI transactions, Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) guidelines, and rationalized merchant discount rates have supported small businesses and MSMEs in adopting digital payments. This surge has expanded access to formal credit channels, empowered economic participation, reduced cash dependency, and created a robust financial footprint for individuals and businesses, fostering inclusion and strengthening the formal economy.

<https://www.fortuneindia.com/business-news/over-650-billion-transactions-in-6-years-drive-financial-inclusion-in-india-says-mos-finance/125258>

Taxation

Transformative milestone for taxation in India

The proposed Income Tax Bill, 2025, marks a major step toward simplifying and modernising India’s tax framework, aligning with the vision of creating a developed and self-reliant nation. It retains existing tax rates for stability while focusing on clarity, consolidation, and ease of compliance. Key improvements include streamlined provisions for non-residents and foreign companies, a clearer definition of “resident,” simplified salary income rules, refined depreciation norms, and rationalised TDS provisions. The Bill also consolidates complex assessment procedures, reducing ambiguity and litigation. A notable reform is the release of detailed FAQs to proactively address potential uncertainties, improving transparency and efficiency. These measures aim to boost compliance, cut administrative burdens, and foster fairness. Future enhancements, such as expanding safe harbour provisions, accelerating dispute resolution, and rationalising penalties, could further strengthen the system. Overall, the Bill lays a strong foundation for an effective, equitable, and modern tax regime that supports sustainable economic growth.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/transformative-milestone-for-taxation-in-india/3749843/>

Metric	28th July 2025	29th July 2025	Change	Metric	28th July 2025	29th July 2025	Change
USDINR	87.81	87.79	-0.02	NIFTY 50	27280	27260	-20
EURINR	102.76	102.69	-0.07	BSE Sense	88025.4	87980.3	-45.1
GBPINR	122.25	122.18	-0.07				
JPYINR	61.1	61.08	-0.02				

