

## Top Story 1

### India Emerges as Bright Spot Amid Global Economic Slowdown

At a time when the global economy is facing what the United Nations calls a "precarious moment", India has emerged as a rare bright spot. India's growth at 6.3 per cent in the current fiscal year, the highest among large economies. This momentum is expected to continue into 2026, with growth estimated at 6.4 per cent. In contrast, the global outlook remains subdued amid rising trade tensions, policy uncertainty, and a decline in cross-border investments. Global economic growth is now projected to slow to 2.4 per cent in 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in 2024, and 0.4 percentage points. Amid global headwinds, India stands out not just for its headline growth figures but for the depth and breadth of its progress, from buoyant capital markets and robust manufacturing to record-breaking exports and a fast-expanding defence sector. These gains are rooted in sound policy choices, strong domestic demand and growing global confidence in India's economic trajectory.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-emerges-as-bright-spot-in-un-report-amid-global-economic-slowdown-8445875>

## Top Story 2

### RBI may lower FY26 inflation forecast significantly

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is expected to cut the policy repo rate by another 25 basis points (bps), may also lower the inflation forecast for FY26 significantly from 4% estimated earlier, according to sources. Consumer price index (CPI) inflation for April came in at lower-than-expected rate of 3.16%. This and the possibility of food prices remaining generally subdued over the next few months due to robust supplies would prompt the downward revision of the inflation forecast for the current fiscal. Besides, the decline in crude oil prices has strengthened the disinflationary outlook. The MPC had unanimously decided to reduce the policy rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 6%. This was the second consecutive rate cut, taking the total reduction in the current monetary easing cycle to 50 basis points. Most analysts expect two more rate cuts by the RBI-MPC in the current fiscal year, with some expecting back-to-back cuts in the next two reviews.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-rbi-may-lower-fy26-inflation-forecast-significantly-3849167/>

## Economy

### India to remain the fastest-growing economy, outpacing China, US, EU

India will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world. In the mid-year report on the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) released by the UN, it is projected that the Indian economy will see a growth of 6.3 percent in the current fiscal year, amidst a challenging global economic landscape. The report noted that India's economic performance stands out when compared to other major economies. Projections indicate that China will grow at 4.6%, the US at 1.6%, Japan at 0.7%, and the EU at a modest 1%. Germany is even forecasted to experience negative growth of -0.1%. Nevertheless, the growth estimates have been revised downwards by 30 basis points compared to earlier figures. This adjustment reflects the slower growth anticipated in the global economy, attributed to escalating trade tensions and policy uncertainties. The WESP recently revised its 2026 projection downwards by 30 basis points to 6.4 per cent. Despite this adjustment, India continues to be one of the fastest-growing major economies.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/158168-india-to-remain-the-fastest-growing-economy-outpacing-china-us-eu-un-report>

## Finance

### Securing the financial sector of India

In the digital era, cybersecurity transcends mere information technology (IT) concerns to become a strategic cornerstone essential for maintaining the integrity and stability of a financial institution. Last year alone, India's financial sector faced over 1.3 million cyber-attacks. The 54th report on "Digital Payment and Online Security Measures for Data Protection" by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT highlighted the need for tackling frauds and cybercrimes in the financial sector which faces a barrage of sophisticated attacks almost every day, compromising the security of vast amounts of sensitive data. There is a rise in cybercrimes related to digital payments with fraudsters increasingly exploiting vulnerabilities in real-time transaction systems. The financial impact of these frauds amounted to `5,574 crore in the first 10 months of 2023 alone, more than double of the Rs 2,296 crore reported in all of 2022. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Financial Stability Report (December 2023), cyber incidents are distributed disproportionately among regulated entities with scheduled commercial banks accounting for 69%.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/securing-the-financial-sector-of-india/3849379/>

## Investment

### Why low inflation raises hopes of more RBI rate cuts

India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to a near-six-year low of 3.16 per cent in April, compared to 3.34 per cent the previous month. The main driver was lower food inflation, at 1.8 per cent, due to decreased inflation for vegetables (-11 per cent). While lower inflation will leave more money in the hands of people for discretionary spending, it also gives the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) more room to further rate cuts, which, in effect, could lower the lending rates of banks for businesses and individuals. The RBI cut repo—that is the rate at which the central bank lends to commercial banks—by 25 basis points each, bringing the rates down to 6 per cent. The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI, which decides on interest rates, is slated. The Union government attributed the significant decline in retail inflation and food inflation in April to the fall in inflation of vegetables, pulses, fruits, meat and fish, personal care and effects, and cereals.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india-today-insight/story/why-low-inflation-raises-hopes-of-more-rbi-rate-cuts-2726683-2025-05-18>

## Market

### India's forex reserves rise \$4.6 billion, hit 7-month high at \$690.6 billion

India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), data released on Friday, 16 May, showed that the nation's total foreign exchange (forex) reserves surged to reach a seven-month high of \$690.61 billion as of 9 May, 2025. The country's forex reserves witnessed a \$4.6 billion hike when compared to the data released for the week ended 2 May, 2025. The total forex reserves were at \$686 billion, according to the previous RBI data release. The central bank data also showed that India's foreign currency assets witnessed a marginal growth, currently at \$581.37 billion, compared to the previous level of \$581.17 billion levels. The foreign exchange reserves in the RBI report are stated in US dollars; the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the pound, euro, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.livemint.com/economy/indias-forex-reserves-rise-4-6-billion-hit-7-month-high-at-690-6-billion-rbi-11747557592596.html>

Currency	Rate(Rs)	Change		Index	Change
USDINR	85.59	0.15	NIFTY50	25,024.35	27.7
EURINR	95.70	-0.27	BSE Sensex	82,397.65	67.06
GBPINR	114.1	0.36			
JPYINR	0.5879	0.0042			