

Top Story 1

India could gain ₹3.6 trillion annually from better eye health: Report

India could gain substantially by investing in basic eye health initiatives such as school screenings and access to affordable reading glasses. A recent report highlights that eye care offers one of the highest returns on investment, generating about ₹16 for every ₹1 spent. An estimated investment of around ₹22,100 crore could yield annual economic gains of over ₹3.6 lakh crore through improved productivity, employment, and education outcomes, along with reduced caregiving costs. The projected benefits include significant contributions from higher productivity, increased job participation, and lower dependency-related expenses. The report also emphasizes the wide-ranging social and economic impact of poor vision, including lost income, educational challenges, and mental health burdens, which often affect women disproportionately. With nearly 70 crore people experiencing avoidable sight loss, strengthening eye health systems could enhance both quality of life and economic growth, making it a powerful area for national investment and social progress.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-can-gain-3-6-lakh-crore-yearly-by-investing-in-eye-health-report-125100801058_1.html

Top Story 2

India's long history of resistance to economic domination

India's economic history reflects a remarkable capacity to adapt and consolidate despite external challenges. Periods of economic strain, including global trade tensions and protectionist policies from major economies, highlight the importance of safeguarding India's interests while engaging with international markets. Historically, India resisted colonial economic domination, overcoming systemic exploitation to restore self-reliance and achieve economic consolidation post-independence. In pre-colonial times, the economy was largely self-sufficient, with thriving agriculture, handicrafts, and favorable trade balances. Colonial policies systematically undermined this, extracting excessive revenues and converting India into a supplier of raw materials while serving foreign industrial interests. The enduring lesson from this history underscores India's resilience and strategic approach to economic challenges, emphasizing the need to protect national interests while participating in global trade. Today, India continues to leverage its legacy of resistance and adaptability to navigate complex global economic landscapes effectively.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/indias-long-history-of-resistance-to-economic-domination-10293309/>

Economy

UK-India FTA a big win, but implementation will decide real gains

The newly signed UK-India Free Trade Agreement presents both political goodwill and promising economic prospects, but its true impact will depend on effective follow-through. While the pact opens opportunities on paper, the benefits for India will materialize through real investment, efficient movement of skilled talent, and swift implementation of its provisions. The agreement offers India access to mature financial and legal markets in the UK, providing avenues for capital inflows, business expansion, and professional collaboration. Conversely, the UK gains a fast-growing trade partner at a time when it seeks alternatives outside its traditional trade blocs. Experts emphasize that the success of the FTA hinges on converting commitments into tangible outcomes, such as actual investment projects, mobility of skilled professionals, and streamlined regulatory processes. If executed effectively, the agreement could significantly boost bilateral trade, enhance India's economic growth, and strengthen long-term strategic and commercial ties with the UK, benefiting both nations.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/expert-view/uk-india-fta-a-big-win-but-implementation-will-decide-real-gains-manish-singh/articleshow/124404705.cms?from=mdr>

Market

India to become \$30-35 trillion economy by 2047

India is on a determined path toward becoming a developed and prosperous nation by 2047, with projections indicating a \$30–35 trillion economy. This ambitious vision reflects sustained efforts to strengthen domestic growth, enhance infrastructure, and expand global trade. Strategic policies and reforms aim to create a conducive environment for investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship, fostering long-term economic resilience. The focus on infrastructure development, digitalization, and technological adoption is expected to drive productivity across sectors, while trade initiatives and global partnerships are designed to integrate India more deeply into international markets. Economic planners are optimistic that these measures will generate employment, improve living standards, and reduce regional disparities. With continued focus on fiscal prudence, social development, and inclusive growth, India's trajectory toward a high-income, globally influential economy appears achievable. This vision underscores the country's long-term potential and determination to secure a prominent place in the global economic landscape.

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/news/business/india-will-be-30-35-trillion-economy-by-2047-piyush-goyal/story>

Finance

India's GIFT City, RBI in talks to enable real-time FX settlement by domestic banks, says official

India’s Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City has taken a major step to modernize its financial infrastructure by launching a real-time foreign currency settlement system. The system currently allows selected banks in GIFT City to clear U.S. dollar transactions in just 30 seconds, a significant improvement from the previous 24-hour settlement timeline. This initiative aims to make forex transactions faster, cheaper, and more efficient, benefiting foreign investors operating through GIFT City. The regulatory authority is now in discussions with the central bank to expand this capability to domestic banks across India. Once implemented, real-time settlement will simplify foreign exchange operations, provide more options for investors, and create new business opportunities for lenders. By reducing transaction costs and settlement times, the move enhances operational efficiency and strengthens India’s position as a competitive financial hub. This development reflects India’s commitment to modernizing its financial ecosystem and attracting global investment.

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/indias-gift-city-rbi-talks-enable-real-time-fx-settlement-by-domestic-banks-says-2025-10-08/>

Digitalization

India's e-NAM Platform Expands with 9 New Commodities, Revolutionizing Digital Agri-Trade and Boosting Market Integration

India’s National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform has expanded by integrating nine new commodities, bringing the total tradable items to 247. This move aims to enhance market access, improve price discovery, and promote transparency for farmers and traders across the country. By standardizing quality parameters for the new commodities—including Green Tea, Aswagandha Dry Roots, Mustard Oil, Lavender Oil, Mentha Oil, Virgin Olive Oil, Lavender Dried Flower, and Broken Rice—the platform ensures fair transactions and accurate price reflection, reducing dependence on intermediaries. The expansion is part of ongoing strategic efforts to create a unified and efficient digital agricultural marketplace, supported by central implementing agencies that coordinate with stakeholders, provide technical support, and monitor progress. Previous additions earlier in the year also enhanced diversity in traded products. While initial reactions have been positive, challenges remain, such as inter-state trade declines, highlighting the need for continued awareness, training, and process optimization to fully realize e-NAM’s potential and empower farmers economically.

Metric	7-Oct-2025 Rate	8-Oct-2025 Rate	Change
USDINR	₹88.6235	₹88.7772	+0.1537 ₹
EURINR	₹102.4342	₹102.7738	+0.3396 ₹
GBPINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
JPYINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
NIFTY 50	25,108.30	25,046.15	-62.15 pts
BSE Sensex	81,926.75	81,773.66	-153.09 pts

