

## Top Story 1

### **'Zero-for-zero' tariff strategy under proposed India-US trade pact unlikely: Official**

A 'zero-for-zero' tariff strategy under the proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and the US is unlikely, as the two countries are at different levels of economic development, official sources said. Certain trade experts have suggested that India can propose a 'zero-for-zero' tariff strategy to the US for addressing America's reciprocal tariff hikes. An official said that zero-for-zero tariffs can be possible between the US and the European Union (EU) as both are developed and advanced nations. The India-US agreement will always be a "package" deal that could include issues such as goods and non-tariff barriers, the official said adding "it does not happen like this that if he will do 'zero' in electronics, we will also do in electronics. Trade agreements do not happen like this. It is a wrong thinking".

## Top Story 2

### **India Set to Become 3rd Largest Economy, Driven by Youth and Bold Reforms: PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India is set to become the third-largest economy in the world very soon. Addressing an event organised by a private media house, Mr Modi said that this unprecedented growth is being driven by the youth of the country. Mr Modi added that despite global challenges, India moved ahead at a faster pace and doubled the size of its economy in just one decade. The Prime Minister added that those who had thought India would move slowly and steadily are now seeing a fast and fearless India. He added that the world is looking towards India with expectations. He further added that those who thought that India would move slowly and steadily are now seeing a Fast and Fearless India. The Prime Minister added that during the first hundred days of the year 2025, the government has not only taken decisions but also laid a strong foundation for the future. He said India is not going to stop now. He added that in these 100 days, India became the fourth country in the world to achieve the capability of docking and undocking satellites.

## **Finance: -**

### **Women's financial sector participation going up**

Women's participation in the labour force, the financial sector, and the overall economy has been rising, pointing to a narrowing gap with men, according to a flagship government report. However, fluctuating and sometimes even downward trends in areas such as education, politics and gender violence suggest that equality is still a long way off, says the report. The ministry of statistics and programme implementation (Mospi)'s "Women and Men in 2024" report, whose full publication was uploaded on Saturday, shows some startling trends in economic activity, such as a fourfold jump since 2021 in the number of women investing in stocks markets. Between March 2021 and November 2024, the number of Demat accounts owned by women surged from 33.26 million to 143.02 million, showing a growing appetite for investment in equities and systemic investment plans. Demat is a digital trading account.

**Investment: -**

## **India eyes bargains with China as Trump's tariff tantrums continue**

India is looking to negotiate better deals with Chinese suppliers as it navigates the trade war between the US and China. In a high-level meeting last week, several line ministries were told to rally industry negotiations and work out how best to extract better deals with their Chinese suppliers, amidst the volatile Trump tariff tantrums. The strategy focuses on leveraging India's manufacturing capabilities to gain cost advantages from China in raw material sourcing — its reported surplus stocks — and boost exports to the US, as India is a relative beneficiary of “discounted tariffs.” In FY24, India-China bilateral trade reached \$118.4 billion, with India importing \$101.7 billion in goods — primarily electronics, machinery, and chemicals — while exporting only \$16.7 billion. This trade imbalance drives India's push for discounts or price cuts, particularly in sectors impacted by US tariffs.

## Digitalization: -

### AI: The next frontier of India's digital diplomacy

On April 2024, India captured global attention at the United Nations' first international conference on Digital Public Infrastructure at the UN headquarters in New York. I witnessed firsthand how India's vision — enabling nation-states to deliver citizen-centric digital public goods — is setting a new standard in digital diplomacy. India's tech prowess is well-known, with groundbreaking initiatives like Aadhaar and UPI inspiring nations around the world to rethink governance through digital infrastructure. Now, as the world shifts its focus, the next chapter in this journey is powered by artificial intelligence (AI). Countries leading in AI research are not only setting global standards but also unlocking significant economic opportunities and reshaping governance for the future. Unlike many nations chasing AI purely for commercial or military gains, India can chart a distinct path: AI for public good. By leveraging its strong Digital Public Infrastructure, India can use AI to transform government services, boost public welfare, and tackle societal challenges. But to do this, India must build its own AI capabilities, seamlessly integrate these systems with its digital framework, and champion self-reliance in AI.

Currency	Rate (Rs)	Change	Index	Change	
USDINR	85.974	-0.216	NIFTY 50	22,828.55	429.4
EURINR	98	-0.031	BSE Sensex	75,157.26	1,310.11
GBPINR	112.833	0.096			
JPYINR	60.2299	0.1838			