

# ECONSCIENCE

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## GLOBAL GROWTH OUTLOOK 2026

### *Inflation and Interest Rates*

*Many countries are still dealing with inflation, but the situation is slowly improving.*

*In Europe, the European Central Bank (ECB) said that food prices are becoming more stable. This is good news because lower food inflation helps families manage daily expenses.*

*In Japan, the Bank of Japan warned that inflation might rise higher than expected. Because of this, Japan may increase interest rates soon. Higher interest rates can slow down spending but help control price rises.*

*In South Korea, the Bank of Korea decided not to change interest rates. The country's exports, especially semiconductors, are performing well.*

us U.S. Economic Debate and Global Influence  
In the United States, top officials and economic commentators continue debating the impacts of trade policy and tariffs on broader economic performance. Some contend that current trade measures are restraining growth more than they bolster it — a perspective that contrasts with political rhetoric emphasising economic strength.



## ***Trade and Global Relations***

***Countries are focusing on trade agreements to boost economic growth.***

***One major development was continued discussion around the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement, which aims to increase trade between India and European countries. Such agreements can create jobs, increase exports, and strengthen economic ties.***

***However, trade tensions and tariff discussions in some regions continue to create uncertainty in global markets.***



### **□ AI and the Future of Public Finance**

**Economists and policy experts are also weighing how artificial intelligence could reshape global economies. New research highlights that while productivity gains from AI may help growth and even ease some fiscal pressures, it won't eliminate the structural debt burdens facing many advanced economies. High public debt in countries like Japan and parts of Europe will likely remain a challenge – even with technological gains.**

### **Modi's Historic Visit to Israel: Deepening Ties in a Turbulent Era**

**In a landmark diplomatic engagement this February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day state visit to Israel—underscoring a new chapter in bilateral partnership amid a changing geopolitical landscape. It was a momentous occasion: Modi became the first Indian prime minister in history to address the Israeli Knesset, receiving a standing ovation from lawmakers and special honours from Israeli leadership.**

# India's Economy: Growth, Data Changes, and Risks

## ***India's Growth Outlook is Strong***

***A major economic report says that \*\*India's economy is likely to grow between about 6.8 % and 7.2 % in the financial year 2026–27. This is a good sign that the economy will keep expanding because of tax changes, business activity, and investment.***

## ***Heat Risk for Farm Output***

***Weather forecasts show that March 2026 could be unusually hot in many farming areas like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. High heat can hurt crops such as wheat and rapeseed, which might affect food supply and prices.***

## ***Economic Data is Becoming Better***

***Officials are working to improve the way India collects and reports economic numbers like GDP and inflation. Better data helps the government and businesses make smarter decisions.***

### **✓ Rupee Strengthens, Foreign Investors Return**

The Indian rupee recorded its first monthly gain in nearly a year in February 2026, rising roughly 1 % against the U.S. dollar. This improvement was fueled by increased foreign portfolio investment and progress on trade agreements, which helped lift investor confidence. However, market watchers remain cautious due to global policy uncertainty and mixed performance in export-linked sectors like IT.



## ***Economy Grew Fast in Late 2025***

***Reports suggest that India's economy grew about 8.1 % in the October–December quarter of 2025 — showing strong domestic demand and economic activity***

***Focus on Reducing Dependence on Foreign Trade Shipments***

***Economic advisors noted concerns about India relying too much on foreign-flagged cargo ships for trade. They suggest building a stronger Indian merchant fleet to***



### **India's GDP Figures Revised — Growth Still Strong**

In late February 2026, the Indian government released updated national accounts under a new GDP calculation method, shifting the base year and improving statistical accuracy.

### **MSMEs Get a Boost**

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), a backbone of the Indian economy accounting for a significant share of GDP and employment, are gaining more access to capital. In the past six months, around 180 MSMEs received approval for stock exchange listings thanks to simplified regulations, a development likely to support entrepreneurship and market participation.

## **“Promises are becoming reality”**: Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates tech and digital factory

***Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday, February 23rd said that the state government has begun translating investment promises made during Advantage Assam 2.0 into concrete projects on the ground, calling the inauguration of HDFC Bank’s Tech & Digital Factory a “major milestone” in the state’s economic journey.***

### **Less than 10% cropped land in Assam gets irrigation despite 12.6L hectare target**

***There is a huge gap between the irrigation potential created and utilized in the state, which cultivators in less than 10% of total cultivated land getting the benefits of government schemes.***

***The irrigation department has created potential in 8.84 lakh hectares upto March last year, and the “ultimate irrigation potential” of the schemes under the department is said to be 12.6 lakh hectares, according to the State Economic Survey 2025-26***

***Ironically the irrigation potential utilized during the year 2024-25 was 2,50,2931 hectares down from 2,98,314 hectares in the previous year***



# Guwahati Economy: February 2026

## ✈️ Airport Expansion Boosts Connectivity

*The newly expanded terminal at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport has started commercial operations, increasing its annual passenger capacity to 13.1 million. This huge upgrade improves travel links between the Northeast and the rest of India, and also to South and Southeast Asia. It's expected to help tourism, trade, and local businesses in Assam grow.*



### ***➤ New Terminal Sees First Airline Operations***

***Akasa Air became the first airline to operate from the new airport terminal. This milestone shows that Guwahati is now ready to handle more flights and passengers, making it a central air-transport hub for Northeast India.***

### ***▣ New Tech & Digital Facility by HDFC Bank***

***HDFC Bank inaugurated a Tech & Digital Factory in Guwahati.***

***This new facility will support digital services development and help boost the technology ecosystem in the region. It could also create new job opportunities for youth interested in tech and innovation.***



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