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GST Reform Task Force - Big Changes Coming

The Indian government has announced major GST (Goods and Services Tax) reforms that will be unveiled on Diwali.

The changes will simplify the current complex structure from four tax slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, 28%) to just two main slabs - 5% and 18%. A special 40% rate will apply to "sin goods" (tobacco, alcohol, etc.).

This reform could reduce government revenue by Rs 85,000 crore annually but is expected to increase consumption (spending by people) and reduce inflation (price rise) by 25 basis points (0.25%).

Key Terms: GST = Goods and Services Tax (indirect tax), Sin goods = harmful products like tobacco, Basis points = 0.01%



PM Modi Announces ₹1 Lakh Crore Employment Scheme

Prime Minister Modi launched the "PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana" worth ₹1 lakh crore to create jobs for young Indians. Under this scheme, newly employed youth will receive ₹15,000 per month, aiming to benefit 3 crore (30 million) young people. This is part of India's goal to become a developed nation by 2047. The scheme will help bridge the gap between independence and prosperity.



Nuclear Power Expansion - 10 Times Growth

India is working on 10 new nuclear reactors as part of its mission to increase nuclear power generation capacity by over 10 times in the next two decades by 2047.

- This is part of India's energy independence goal and commitment to clean energy
- Nuclear power will help reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and support India's net-zero emissions target.pmi
 - **Key Terms:** Nuclear reactor = device that generates nuclear power, Net-zero emissions = producing no harmful gases

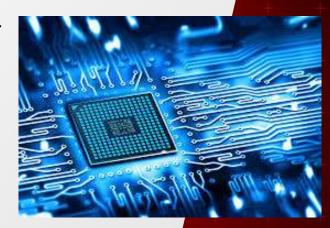


Made in India Semiconductor Chip Success

PM Modi announced that India's first "Made in India" semiconductor chip will be ready by the end of 2025.

This is a major achievement as previous attempts 50-60 years ago had failed.

- The PM also challenged Indian scientists and youth to develop indigenous jet engines, similar to how India successfully made vaccines during COVID-19 and created UPI for digital payments.
- **Key Terms:** Semiconductor = electronic component used in computers and phones, Indigenous = made locally, UPI = Unified Payments Interface





: Russia-Ukraine War Intensifies

Russia launched its largest attack in August 2025 on Ukraine, firing 280 drones and missiles overnight.

- The attack came after a meeting between US President Trump, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, and European leaders in Washington.
- Russia rejected Western peace efforts, with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov calling them "hopeless ventures."
- The war shows no signs of ending despite international diplomatic efforts
- **Key Terms:** Diplomatic = related to international relations, Foreign Minister = top diplomat of a country



Former Thai PM Thaksin Acquitted

Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was acquitted (found not guilty) by a Bangkok court on charges of insulting the monarchy (royal family).

- The case could have resulted in 3-15 years in prison under Thailand's strict lese majeste law.
- The 76-year-old politician smiled as he left the courthouse, with about 150 supporters gathered outside.
- This is significant as Thailand has very harsh laws protecting the royal family.
 - **Key Terms:** Acquitted = found not guilty, Monarchy = royal family system, Lese majeste = insulting royalty



Colombia Terror Attacks Kill 17

Two separate attacks in Colombia killed at least 17 people including 12 police officers.

A car bomb exploded near a military aviation school in Cali city, while a police helicopter was shot down in Antioquia region. President Gustavo Petro blamed FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) dissidents who rejected the 2016 peace agreement. These groups are involved in illegal drug trafficking.

Key Terms: FARC = former rebel group, Dissidents = people who disagree and break away, Drug trafficking = illegal drug trade



Iran Nuclear Tensions Continue

Iran is planning diplomatic talks with France, Germany, and the UK to avoid UN sanctions over its nuclear program.

- There are concerns about Iran's nuclear activities and whether they are for peaceful purposes or weapons development.
- The international community is monitoring Iran's nuclear enrichment activities closely.
- This is part of long-standing tensions over Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- **Key Terms:** Nuclear enrichment = process to make nuclear fuel, Sanctions = international penalties



Major Earthquake in South Atlantic

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck in the South Atlantic Ocean, far off the coast of Argentina.

- The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported this as a major earthquake. Fortunately, being far from populated areas, no immediate damage or casualties were reported.
- Such underwater earthquakes can sometimes cause tsunamis, but none were generated in this case. abonews.go
- **Key Terms:** Magnitude = earthquake strength measurement, USGS = earthquake monitoring organization, Tsunami = large ocean wave



: National Space Day - ISRO's Pride

August 23, 2025, is celebrated as National Space Day in India, commemorating the historic soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023.

India became the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first to reach the lunar south pole. This day celebrates ISRO's achievements and India's growing space capabilities.

PM Modi declared this day to honor India's space program success.

Key Terms: ISRO = Indian Space Research Organisation, Lunar = related to moon, Soft landing = gentle touchdown



International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade

August 23 is also observed as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

The 2025 theme is "Acknowledging the past, repairing the present, building a future of dignity and justice for all."

This day remembers the millions of people who suffered under slavery and promotes human rights and dignity.

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Key Terms: Abolition = ending of slavery, Dignity = respect for human worth



India-Bangladesh Cricket Tour Postponed

- India's white-ball cricket tour to Bangladesh, originally scheduled for August 2025, has been postponed to September 2026.
- The tour was to include 3 ODIs (One Day Internationals) and 3 T20Is (Twenty20 Internationals).
- The postponement was due to diplomatic tensions and scheduling issues between both cricket boards. This would have been historic as India's first bilateral T20I series in Bangladesh.
- **Key Terms:** White-ball cricket = limited-overs cricket, Bilateral = between two countries, Cricket boards = governing bodies

US Open Tennis 2025 Begins

The final Grand Slam tennis tournament of 2025 starts on August 24-25.

Defending champions Jannik Sinner (men's) and Aryna Sabalenka (women's) will try to retain their titles.

Notable highlight: 45-year-old Venus Williams received a wild-card entry and faces a tough first-round match.

The tournament features the highest prize money ever, with champions receiving \$5 million each.wik

• **Key Terms:** Grand Slam = major tennis tournament, Wild-card = special invitation, Prize money = cash rewards



Major Football Transfer Window Activity

The summer 2025 football transfer window (June 16 -

September 1) saw major player movements

Arsenal signed Viktor Gyokeres for £63.5m and Martin

Zubimendi for £51m. Manchester City acquired James Trafford

from Burnley for £27m.

Liverpool sold Luis Díaz to Bayern Munich for £66m. These transfers will significantly impact the upcoming Premier League season.

• **Key Terms:** Transfer window = period when players can move between clubs, Transfer fee = money paid for players



India's GDP Growth Projected at 6.7%

Economic experts project India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth at 6.7% for the first quarter of FY26, supported by strong government spending and rural demand.

- This growth is driven by government capital expenditure (capex), improving rural demand, and a buoyant services industry.
- The growth shows India's economic resilience despite global challenges.
- **Key Terms:** GDP = total value of goods and services produced, Capital expenditure = government spending on infrastructure, Rural demand = spending by village people

: Historic GST Reform to Boost Economy

The proposed GST rationalization could unlock consumption worth Rs 5.31 lakh crore (1.6% of GDP), according to SBI Research.

- Lower GST rates on essentials like food and clothing could reduce inflation by 25 basis points.
- Even with Rs 85,000 crore revenue loss, higher compliance and economic growth are expected to compensate. This reform aims to simplify taxes and boost consumer spending.
 - **Key Terms:** Rationalization = making more logical, Consumption = people buying things, Compliance = following tax rules

India's Space Sector Growth

- ISRO has launched 433 satellites from 34 countries, generating significant revenue.
- The space startup ecosystem has grown from just 1 company 10 years ago to over 300 startups today.
 - India successfully completed the NASA-ISRO NISAR mission and is preparing for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight program.
- The space sector is becoming a major economic driver.
- **Key Terms:** Startup = new business company, Revenue = income earned, Ecosystem = business environment

: Forex Reserves Increase

- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$1.48 billion to \$695.10 billion, showing strong economic fundamentals.
- Higher forex reserves provide stability against global economic uncertainties and support the rupee.
 - This increase reflects foreign investment confidence in India's economy and helps in international trade payments.
- **Key Terms:** Forex reserves = foreign currency savings, Economic fundamentals = basic economic strength, Rupee = Indian currency

: Electric Vehicle Toll Exemption

- Electric vehicles are now exempted from toll charges on Atal Setu, India's longest sea bridge connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. This initiative promotes electric vehicle adoption and supports India's clean energy goals. The exemption applies to four-wheelers and buses operated by both state and private entities, encouraging sustainable transportation.
- Key Terms: Toll charges = road usage fees, Sustainable transportation = environment-friendly travel, Clean energy = pollution-free power





: ISRO's Gaganyaan Mission Ready

ISRO's first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1) is set to launch in December 2025, featuring Vyommitra, a half-humanoid robot. This robot will test spacecraft systems and simulate human responses in microgravity (weightlessness).

- THE mission is crucial preparation for India's first human spaceflight, making India the fourth country to send humans to space independently after USA, Russia, and China.
- **Key Terms:** Uncrewed = without human crew, Humanoid = human-like robot, Microgravity = very low gravity in space



: NASA-ISRO NISAR Mission Success

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission launched successfully, marking the first joint Earth observation project between India and USA. The 6,500 kg satellite will provide high-resolution, all-weather images of Earth's surface every 12 days. This data will help monitor environmental changes, earthquakes, and climate patterns globally. wikipedia+ Key Terms: Synthetic Aperture Radar = advanced imaging technology, Earth observation = studying Earth from space, High-resolution = very detailed images



National Space Day Celebrations

- August 23, 2025, marks the second National Space Day, celebrating Chandrayaan-3's historic Moon landing achievement.
- ISRO's remarkable progress includes doubling mission numbers from 2015-2025 compared to 2005-2015.
- The space program has evolved from a modest 1963 rocket launch to becoming a major global space power with successful Mars and Moon missions.
- **Key Terms:** Mission = space project, Global space power = major space-exploring country







