

Top Story 1

India Plans To Ease Barriers Between SEZs And Domestic Market To Boost

India is considering easing restrictions between its special economic zones (SEZs) and the domestic market to allow a smoother flow of goods and services. The move aims to strengthen export competitiveness and support manufacturing growth. Discussions are underway within the government to make SEZ operations more flexible, particularly in response to global trade uncertainties. Key proposals include adjusting customs duties on sales from SEZs to the domestic market, allowing payments in Indian currency for services, and permitting domestic units to send goods into SEZs for outsourcing. SEZs, which operate as duty-free zones outside the country's customs territory, currently contribute a significant share of India's total goods exports. Recent data shows exports from thousands of units across several operational SEZs recording steady growth. To implement the proposed changes, amendments to the existing legal framework may be required. Experts believe that these reforms could shift SEZs from an export-only model to broader development hubs, enhancing production, efficiency, and employment potential within India.

<https://www.news18.com/business/economy/india-plans-to-ease-barriers-between-sezs-and-domestic-market-to-boost-trade-flow-9695327.html>

Top Story 2

Festive demand, GST cuts perk up consumption in Oct, Q3 looks 'sunny'

India's consumption saw a sharp rebound in October, supported by festive demand and recent rationalisation in tax rates, signalling strong economic resilience amid global uncertainty. The improvement marks a clear turnaround after a subdued monsoon period, with households and businesses increasing their spending. The momentum was driven by higher vehicle purchases, record digital transactions, and one of the strongest festive spending phases in recent years. Digital payment volumes touched new highs, while festive sales posted significant gains, highlighting the strength of domestic demand even as external trade trends remain soft. Indicators of business activity continued to show optimism, suggesting that earlier weakness is giving way to a brighter third quarter. Estimates point to strong nominal growth for the period, aided by lower price pressures and improving consumption patterns. The pickup in spending has helped counterbalance the impact of weaker export activity, reinforcing India's position as a demand-driven economy.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/festive-demand-gst-cuts-sbi-caps-consumption-economy-11762774332820.html>

Economy

Manufacturing push, AI ministry top economists' budget wish list

India's long-term growth prospects remain strong, with economists emphasizing the need for a comprehensive manufacturing policy to drive self-reliant and sustainable expansion. In pre-budget discussions, they recommended strengthening the current incentive framework by making it more supportive of smaller enterprises and encouraging value addition rather than assembly-based output. A dedicated ministry for artificial intelligence was suggested to accelerate technological advancement. Economists also proposed introducing a vacant land tax to encourage the productive use of idle plots for industrial and infrastructure development, along with promoting plug-and-play facilities for smaller units. They highlighted the importance of expanding wastewater reuse and recycling initiatives to enhance resource efficiency. The group appreciated India's balance of steady growth, contained inflation, and responsible fiscal management despite global uncertainty. They stressed the urgency of boosting domestic manufacturing capabilities, reducing import dependence, and aligning policies with shifting global supply chains to strengthen India's position in high-value production.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-manufacturing-push-ai-ministry-top-economists-budget-wish-list-4038374/>

Market

RBI deputy governor highlights impact of transformational technologies on banking

A senior official from the Reserve Bank of India highlighted how transformational technologies are reshaping the entire financial ecosystem. He noted that every function—payments, credit, savings, investments, regulation, and supervision—is being redefined by rapid technological advancements. With emerging tools such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum computing, and digital currencies, he emphasized the need to adopt innovation with caution, ensuring systems remain secure, inclusive, resilient, and future-ready. He said India's journey in digitisation demonstrates that those who use technology responsibly can shape future financial landscapes. Over the years, India has progressed from basic digital payment systems to advanced platforms and even experiments with digital currency. However, because banks operate in a protected and highly regulated environment, their pace of innovation often slows, allowing fintechs to lead disruptive change. He stressed that banks must now rethink their approach, as upcoming technologies will fundamentally influence the next phase of financial transformation.

https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/rbi-deputy-governor-highlights-impact-of-transformational-technologies-on-banking-125111100627_1.html

Finance

Festivals, GST rejig boost average credit card spending by 15%

India recorded a strong rise in credit-card spending, driven by festive demand and recent changes in tax rates. According to the latest data, lenders saw about 15% year-on-year growth in average expenditure per credit card, reflecting improved consumer sentiment and higher discretionary spending. The overall average spend per card reached a notable level, indicating a broad-based increase across the financial system. The largest issuers continued to show strong performance, with one major lender reporting steady growth in average card usage and another posting a significant rise in spending per card. This momentum highlights the impact of easier digital payments, greater comfort with credit-based transactions, and seasonal consumption trends across India. The surge also points to the effectiveness of tax adjustments in stimulating demand, particularly during peak shopping periods. Overall, the rise in credit-card expenditure signals resilient domestic consumption and continued confidence among Indian households and financial institutions.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/festive-season-gst-boost-credit-card-spend-up-15-percent-yoy-125111001577_1.html

Investment

India’s Next Investment Hotspots: Top Tier-2 and Tier-3 Cities Set for Major Transformations in 2025

India’s Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities are emerging as important hubs of economic growth, driven by rapid improvements in infrastructure and urban development. Enhanced connectivity, expanding transport networks, upgraded utilities, and smart city initiatives are helping these regions attract new investments and talent. With a growing young workforce and increasing interest from businesses, these cities are becoming strong alternatives to traditional metropolitan centers. The rise of new economic corridors, better public services, and rising consumer demand is accelerating their transformation. Many smaller cities across India are now developing into dynamic zones for innovation, modern services, and entrepreneurship. This shift is creating broader regional development, reducing pressure on major urban centers, and supporting a more balanced economic landscape. Overall, the growing capabilities of these cities indicate stronger national progress and a more inclusive growth path.

<https://tradebrains.in/money/indias-next-investment-hotspots-top-tier-2-and-tier-3-cities-set-for-major-transformations-in-2025/>

Metric	6-Oct-2025 Rate	10-Nov-2025 Rate	Change
USDINR	₹88.7212	₹88.6580	-0.0632 ₹
EURINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
GBPINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
JPYINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
NIFTY 50	Data NA	Data NA	—
BSE Sensex	Data NA	Data NA	—