

Top Story 1

GST Rate Cuts, Festive Demand Lift MSME Confidence:

India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are expressing renewed optimism about their business outlook, driven by strong domestic demand, easing input costs, and supportive government policies. A recent national survey indicates that MSMEs are benefiting from a stable economic environment and policy initiatives such as reductions in goods and services tax (GST) rates on select products. The study introduces two key indicators — the MSME Business Expectations Index (M-BEI) and MSME Business Conditions Index (M-BCI) — both designed to gauge current performance and future sentiment. These indices, ranging from 0 to 100, show positive sentiment when scores exceed 50. They are based on factors including sales, profit margins, skilled labour availability, access to finance, and the overall business environment. The survey also examined capacity utilisation, capital expenditure, interest costs, and ease of doing business, capturing insights from MSMEs across diverse regions and sectors in India.

<https://www.news18.com/business/economy/gst-rate-cuts-festive-demand-lift-msme-confidence-sidbi-ws-l-9665123.html>

Top Story 2

Inside India–EU FTA Push: Why steel, auto, and carbon levy need deeper talks?

India and the European Union have reaffirmed their commitment to finalising a long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025. Both sides agreed that several key areas still need deeper discussions due to their complex and sensitive nature. The upcoming visit of the EU's technical team is expected to build on potential solutions explored in earlier rounds of dialogue and accelerate the negotiation process. India emphasised the importance of creating a balanced and equitable trade partnership that supports mutual growth, sustainability, and shared prosperity. The talks reflect the strong intent to strengthen economic cooperation and align trade priorities in a way that benefits both sides. With continued engagement at the highest levels, the FTA aims to open new avenues for trade and investment, enhance competitiveness, and reinforce India's position as a reliable partner in the global economy.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-inside-indiaeu-fta-pushnbpswhy-steel-auto-and-carbon-levy-need-deeper-talks-brussels-team-heads-to-delhi-4024971/>

Economy

Inside India–EU FTA Push: Why steel, auto, and carbon levy need deeper talks? Brussels team heads to Delhi

India and the European Union have reaffirmed their commitment to finalise the long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025. Both sides acknowledged that issues related to steel, automobiles, carbon levies, and regulatory frameworks require further discussions due to their sensitivity. To advance the negotiations, a technical team from the European Union will visit India to build on the progress made in recent discussions. The visit aims to identify balanced and equitable solutions that align with the shared goal of fostering meaningful trade, sustainable growth, and mutual prosperity. The official release highlighted that the FTA discussions are progressing in line with the directions of top leadership from both sides, reflecting a strong intent to strengthen economic ties and enhance trade opportunities. Once concluded, the agreement is expected to deepen collaboration and promote a stable, mutually beneficial partnership between India and the European Union.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-inside-indiaeu-fta-pushnbspwwhy-steel-auto-and-carbon-levy-need-deeper-talks-brussels-team-heads-to-delhi-4024971/>

Market

RBI brings home 64 tonnes of gold between March 2025 and Sept 2025

The central bank has accelerated efforts to bring back a significant portion of its gold reserves, repatriating nearly 64 tonnes in the recent half year amid growing global concerns about holding sovereign assets overseas. This move follows increasing geopolitical fragmentation and incidents where nations have faced restrictions on accessing their foreign reserves. Experts suggest that onshoring gold reserves enhances national security and financial sovereignty, reducing exposure to external risks. The rising value of gold has also increased its share within overall reserves, now forming a larger portion of total holdings. As of the latest update, a major share of foreign currency assets remains invested in securities and deposits with other central banks. The accelerated repatriation marks a strategic shift towards safeguarding assets domestically in response to the evolving global financial landscape and underscores the importance of maintaining direct custody over key reserve assets.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbi-brings-home-64-tonnes-of-gold-between-march-2025-and-sept-2025/articleshow/124876765.cms?from=mdr>

Finance

India needs robust carbon pricing for sustainable growth and global edge

India needs a robust carbon market to achieve global competitiveness through sustainable growth. Establishing a system that caps emissions with declining allowances, backed by accurate measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV), and governed by an independent regulator can enable companies to trade efficiently while meeting climate goals. Such a market would enhance access to global trade by avoiding carbon tariffs and encouraging investment in cleaner technologies. A transparent, gradually tightening emissions cap, predictable auctions, and reinvestment of revenues into decarbonisation initiatives will strengthen long-term industrial competitiveness. Digital reporting, credible verification, and an auditable national registry will ensure accuracy and accountability. An autonomous regulatory body must oversee allocations, auctions, penalties, and market stability. Rolling out the framework sector by sector will help refine mechanisms and create confidence among participants. A credible carbon pricing system will drive innovation, attract green investments, and accelerate the transition towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/india-needs-robust-carbon-pricing-for-sustainable-growth-and-global-edge/articleshow/124879099.cms?from=mdr>

Investment

Institutional Investments in Indian Real Estate Jump 83% YoY in Q3 2025; Domestic Funds Take the Lead:

Institutional investments in India's real estate sector rose sharply, reaching USD 1.76 billion in the third quarter, the highest in four years and marking an 83% year-on-year increase. The commercial segment dominated with a 79% share, reflecting strong demand across office, retail, co-working, and hospitality spaces. The residential segment contributed 11% of total inflows, while the industrial and warehousing segment grew significantly, driven by expanding logistics needs. A major shift was seen toward domestic capital, which accounted for over half of total investments, indicating rising confidence among Indian investors, while foreign participation declined. Co-investments between domestic and overseas investors also increased, highlighting a preference for collaborative funding models amid global uncertainty. Despite global volatility, India's real estate outlook remains positive, supported by demand for quality commercial spaces, growing warehousing hubs, and deeper financial markets. The sector continues to be a key contributor to India's economic expansion and long-term growth.

<https://www.republicworld.com/business/institutional-investments-in-indian-real-estate-jump-83-yoy-in-q3-2025-domestic-funds-take-the-lead-vestian>

Metric	27-Oct-2025 Rate	28-Oct-2025 Rate	Change
USDINR	₹88.2228	₹88.2238	+0.0010 ₹
EURINR	₹102.7853	₹102.8322	+0.0469 ₹
GBPINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
JPYINR	Data NA	Data NA	—
NIFTY 50	25,950.00	25,936.20	-13.80 pts
BSE Sensex	84,778.84	84,628.16	-150.68 pts

