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NASA will start a nuclear reactor on the Moon by the year 2030



- NASA has unveiled a plan under its Artemis program to build a nuclear reactor on the Moon by the year 2030, with the aim of bringing humans back to the lunar surface and establishing a sustainable presence.
- The plan is to install a small modular nuclear reactor capable of generating at least 100 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about 80 homes on Earth.
- In April 2025, China reportedly unveiled a plan to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by the year 2035. This plant will support its planned International Lunar Research Station.

Outer Space Treaty:

- The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 regulates space activities and ensures peaceful use and cooperation among nations.

Artemis Mission:

- The Artemis Mission (Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of Moon's Interaction with the Sun: ARTEMIS) is the second mission launched by the American space agency NASA to land astronauts on the Moon.

- It should be noted that in 1969 NASA's "Apollo Mission" (Apollo 11) was the first human mission to land on the lunar surface. On 21 June 2023, India signed the Artemis Accords, becoming the 27th signatory country.
- The Artemis Mission is also being called NASA's back-to-the-Moon program. This "lunar exploration program" was named by NASA after the Greek god Apollo's twin sister and the goddess of the Moon "Artemis."

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The Centre has proposed to reduce the number of slabs under the Goods and Services Tax system, retaining the 5% and 18% slabs



- The Central government has proposed two tax rates of 5% and 18% in the revamped goods and services tax (GST), slated to replace the current indirect tax regime by Diwali this year
- While the presently nil or zero per cent GST tax is charged on essential food items, 5% is charged on daily use items, 12% on standard goods, 18% on electronics and services, and 28% on luxury and sin goods, the revamped GST regime will have two slabs plus a special rate of 40% for luxury and 'sin' goods.
- In real estate, construction materials attract varying GST rates, cement at 28%, steel at 18%, paint and varnishes at 28%, ceramic tiles at 18%, and sanitary ware at 18%
- Services like architectural design and project management are taxed at 18%. These rates directly influence project costs and, in turn, housing prices.
- Also, under the proposed GST structure, most goods and services would fall under either the 5% or 18% slab, replacing the current 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% rates

- As many as 99 per cent of items in the 12 per cent category, such as butter, fruit juices and dry fruits, would move to a 5 per cent tax rate.
- Similarly, electronic items like ACs, TVs, fridges, and washing machines, as well as other goods like cement, will be among the 90 per cent of the items that will move from 28 per cent to a lower 18 per cent slab.

Proposed Reforms in India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) Regime:

➤ Simplified Tax Structure & Rate Rationalization:

➤ Two Main Slabs: 5% (merit rate) and 18% (standard rate);

➤ 99% of items in the 12% slab to move to 5%;

➤ 90% of items in the 28% slab to shift to 18%;

➤ Special 40% Slab: For 'sin goods' like tobacco, pan masala, and online gaming

➤ **What is the Goods and Services Tax (GST)?**

➤ About: The 101st Amendment Act, 2016 introduced a unified indirect tax system across India by subsuming multiple central and state taxes under GST.

➤ GST is a value-added tax levied on the supply of all goods and services.

➤ It replaced central taxes like Excise Duty, Additional Excise Duties, and Service Tax, and state taxes like VAT, Central Sales Tax, and Luxury Tax.

➤ Article 279A of the Indian Constitution gives power to the President of India to constitute a joint forum of the Centre and States called the GST Council

NHAI Successfully Implements FASTag Annual Pass Across the Country

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully implemented the 'FASTag Annual Pass' facility at 1 thousand 150 Toll Plazas across the country on 79th Independence Day
- The FASTag Annual Pass has been launched with the aim to eliminate the need to frequently recharge FASTag through a one-time fee payment of 3 thousand.
- The pass carries validity of one year or 200 toll plaza crossings.
- The FASTag Annual Pass is applicable for all non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag

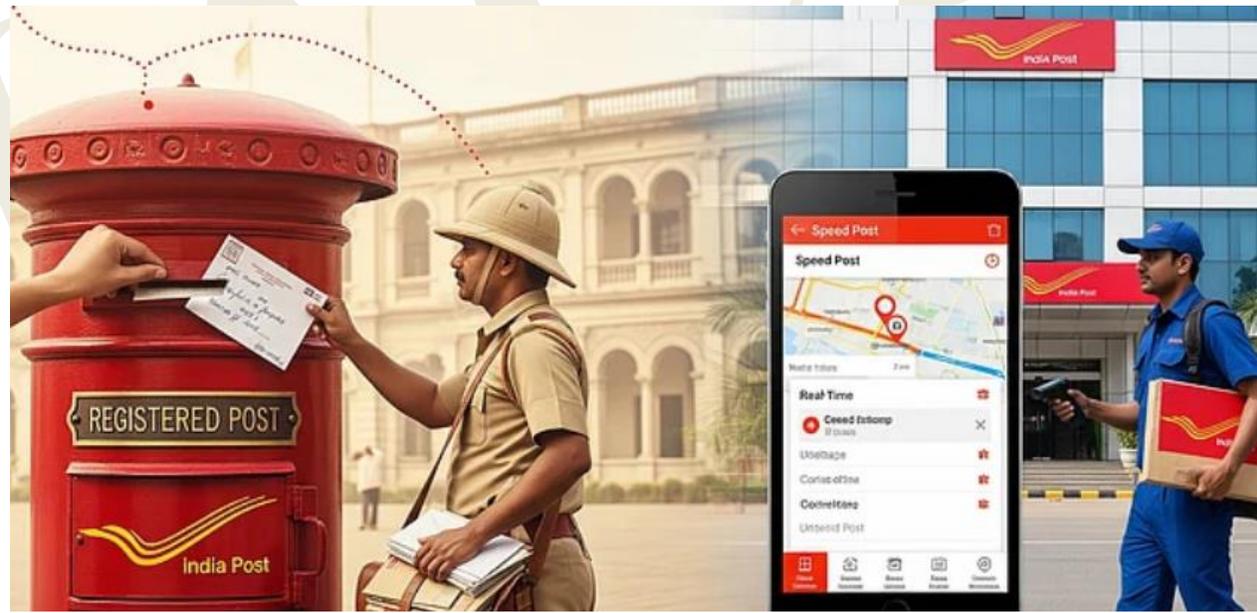
FASTag Annual Pass Features:

- One-time fee payment of Rs. 3,000.
- Valid for 1 year or 200 toll plaza crossings.
- Applicable only for non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag.
- Pass gets activated within 2 hours of fee payment through RajmargyatraApp or NHAI website.



India Post to phase out Registered Post service from September 1

- The Indian Postal Department plans to discontinue its Registered Post service starting on September 1, 2025
- The service, which has been operational for over 50 years, is being discontinued as part of a strategic plan to merge it with Speed Post.
- The goal of this merger is to modernize and streamline postal operations.
- Speed Post, which has been in use since 1986, offers better tracking, faster delivery, and improved operational efficiency.
- The Registered Post service was priced at ₹25.96 plus ₹5 for every additional 20 grams, while Speed Post starts at ₹41 for parcels up to 50 grams, making it 20-25% more expensive.



Infosys to Acquire 75% Stake in Versent Group

- Infosys announced its strategic move to acquire 75% stake in Versent Group, a telecommunication company and wholly owned subsidiary of Australia's Telstra for USD 153 million to establish a Joint Venture focused on Artificial Intelligence powered cloud and digital services.
- Under the deal, Telstra retains a 25% stake in Versent Group, while Infosys assumes operational control of Versent, Epicon, Telstra Purple Digital, and Cloud Access products.
- The JV will integrate advanced technologies of Infosys such as Infosys Topaz, an AI platform, Infosys Cobalt, a cloud suite; and the Missing Link, a cybersecurity arm of Infosys with connectivity infrastructure of Telstra and local digital transformation strengths of Versent.

Recent Acquisition related news

- The Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates Limited by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited announced its first international acquisition of 51% stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC for USD 52.96 million



Forest Wildlife Crime Management System 'HAWK'

- Union Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh launched a customized version of 'Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK)', a digital-cum-centralized forests and wildlife crime management system designed to curb forest and wildlife crimes, for Tamil Nadu forest department.
- With this, Tamil Nadu becomes the 3rd state in India, after Kerala and Karnataka to implement this wildlife crime management system.
- This system was developed by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in collaboration with Japanese Information Technology services provider, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone

Recent Wildlife related news:

- World Lion Day is annually observed across the globe on 10th August to raise awareness about Lions (Panthera Leo).
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released India's first- ever Grassland Bird Census at an official event held in Kaziranga (Assam).

HAWK

Hostile Activity Watch Kernel

Bharat Steel 2026

- Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched the official logo, brochure, and website of “Bharat Steel 2026”
- Bharat Steel 2026, a flagship initiative of the MoS, is an international conference-cum-exhibition dedicated to the steel ecosystem.
- The initiative is launched with an aim to conduct the largest steel exhibition in India and position India as a global hub for sustainable and technologically advanced steel production.
- During the event, Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary of MoS, announced that the per capita consumption of Steel in India has crossed 100 Kilogram for the first time
- Government of India aims to increase the per capita consumption of finished steel to approximately 160 Kg, crude steel capacity of 300 Million Tonnes and production of 255 MT by 2030-31 under the National Steel Policy 2017.
- The per capita consumption of steel was approximately 60 Kg at the time of the launch of the policy in 2017.
- Under the Union Budget 2025–26, the GoI has allocated Rs.3,362 crore to the MoS.



Indian Navy received the 3rd SVL Ship 'Ikshak' from GRSE

- Indian Navy received 'Indian Naval Ship Ikshak (Guide) (Yard 3027)', the 3rd in a series of 4 Survey Vessel (Large) ships, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited.
- The contract for 4 SVLs was signed in 2018. The 1st ship of the class, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned in February 2024, followed by INS Nirdeshak in December 2024.
- Ikshak is the first SVL Ship to be delivered with accommodation for women officers and sailors.
- The Ikshak is the 802nd ship and the 113th warship to be built by GRSE.
- It is the 75th warship handed over to the IN by GRSE, the only Indian shipyard to achieve this milestone.
- Since 1961, GRSE has built 74 more warships



H.E. Zeenat Kureshi Appointed as GCC-India Trade Commissioner

- Indian Actor, Producer and Investor, H.E. Zeenat Kureshi has become the 1st woman from India to be appointed as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) India Trade Commissioner under the global chamber of commerce.
- Her work is aimed at building strategic partnerships between premium Indian industries and the GCC's burgeoning luxury markets, spanning fashion, jewelry, fine arts, hospitality, and real estate.

The TopBrand 2025 'Top 500 Global Brands list'

- Published by TopBrand Union
- Published at 19th China Brand Festival, held in Shenzhen
- The rankings highlighted the dominance of US tech giants, with Microsoft, NVIDIA, and Apple securing the top three positions.
- The event, themed "AI and Global Expansion", drew over 10,000 participants, including entrepreneurs, policymakers, and brand leaders from across the globe.
- Top 5 Global Brands of 2025:

1 Microsoft

2 NVIDIA

3 Apple

4 Amazon

5 Alphabet



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NPCI to stop UPI P2P 'collect requests' from October 1 to combat fraud

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has directed banks and payment apps to halt all peer-to-peer (P2P) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) “collect requests” from October 1 to curb frauds.
- The “UPI collect” feature allows users to request money from another UPI user by sending a payment request through their UPI app.
- At present, the maximum amount a UPI user can collect per transaction is ₹2,000.
- The number of successful P2P credit transactions is capped at 50 a day.

About NPCI

- Established: 2008
- HQ: Mumbai
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe



Asian Surfing Championships 2025

- The 4th Asian Surfing Championships (ASC) 2025, held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, marking India's debut as host.
- The event served as the final qualification event for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- The ASC 2025 featured over 150 surfers from 20 countries in 4 categories (Open -Men/Women, U-18 Boys/Girls).

Top 3 in Open-Men Category:

- Kanoa Heejae – 15.17 Points – Gold - South Korea
- Pajar Ariyana – 14.57 Points – Silver – Indonesia
- Ramesh Budihal – 12.60 Points – Bronze – India categories (Open -Men/Women, U-18 Boys/Girls).



Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025

- Award - Best Film & Best Director - filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan
- Awarded at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025

Extra info

- Additionally, Homebound has been chosen as the closing film of the festival on August 24, 2025
- Bollywood star Aamir Khan received the prestigious Excellence in Cinema Award for his decades-long contribution to the industry.

Complete list of IFFM 2025 Award Winners:

- Best Film: Homebound
- Best Director: Neeraj Ghaywan (Homebound)
- Best Indie Film: Angammal
- Best Actor (Male) – Film: Abhishek Bachchan (I Want to Talk)
- Best Actor (Female) – Film: Geetha Kailasam (Angammal)
- Best Series: Black Warrant
- Best Actor (Male) – Series: Jaideep Ahlawat (Paatal Lok Season 2)
- Best Actor (Female) – Series: Nimisha Sajayan (Dabba Cartel)
- Excellence in Cinema: Aamir Khan
- Leadership in Cinema: Arvind Swamy
- Disruptor Award: Vir Das



AI Boost for Panchayats: Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh to Launch 'SabhaSaar' today in New Delhi

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), launched 'SabhaSaar', an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered summarisation tool designed to automatically generate structured Minutes of Meeting (MoM) from Audio/Video (AV) recordings of Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings in New Delhi
- As a first step, all the 1194 Gram Panchayats (GP) of Tripura (including traditional local bodies) used the tool to generate the MoMs for Special Gram Sabhas on 15th August 2025
- The tool is integrated with Bhashini, the Government of India's (GoI) National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)
- It currently supports 13 Indian languages (more will be added in the future) to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for Panchayat functionaries across different linguistic backgrounds
- A Gram Sabha is supposed to meet at least four days (January 26, May 1, August 15, and October 2) in a year.

