

FAIR R E P O R T

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

HAPPY NAVRATRI

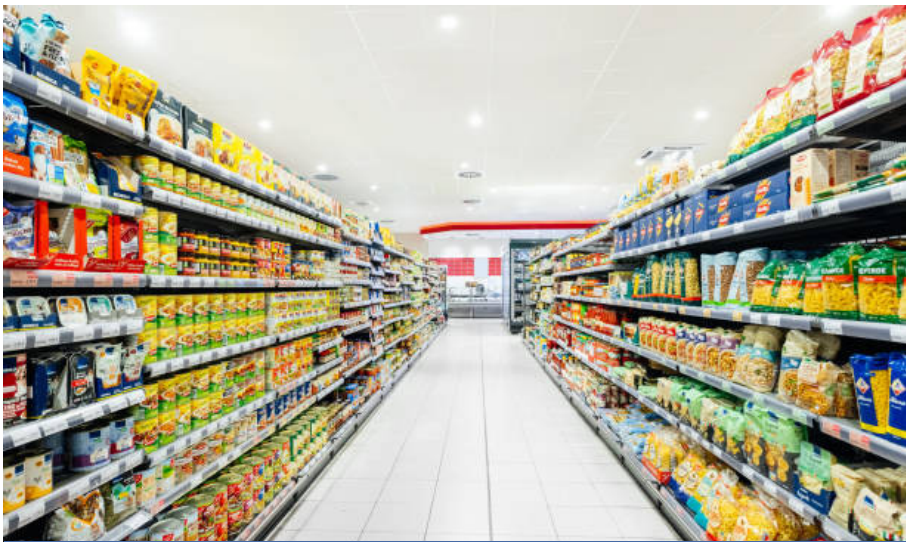
Worship of Maa Brahmacharini and the Power of Devotion -P4

GST Rate Cuts Kick In: Festive-Season Prices Drop on Essentials, Services and Big-Ticket Buys

FAIR REPORT

AMBRISH PANDE, New Delhi: Shoppers across India will wake up to lower prices from today as sweeping cuts in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) come into force, promising festive-season relief on everything from kitchen staples to premium hotel stays.

The GST Council, comprising the Centre and state finance ministers, approved the changes last week. The revised rates—effective September 22, the first day of Navratri—cover around 375 items spanning food, medicines, electronics, personal care, automobiles and travel services.



Daily Essentials and Household Goods

Prices of paneer, soap, shampoo and a wide range of packaged foods have been slashed, alongside reductions on medicines and common electronics. Retailers began updating price tags on Monday, with some companies sharing revised MRPs while others work with provisional estimates. Market prices could fall even further once fresh discounts are applied.

Travel, Hospitality and Leisure

- The tax on hotel room bookings has been restructured to draw more tourists:
- Rooms under 1,000 remain tax-free.
- 1,000–7,500 rooms drop from 12 % GST to 5 %.
- Premium rooms above 7,500 will attract 18 % GST.

Entertainment gets cheaper too:

cinema tickets up to 100 now carry 5 % GST (down from 12 %), while tickets above 100 are taxed at 18 %. Beauty and health-related services also move down from 18 % to 5 % GST. Air travel and gym memberships see similar reductions.

Big-Ticket Items and New Luxury Slab

A new 40 % GST slab has been introduced for luxury and indulgence products such as pan masala and tobacco, and for select high-end vehicles:

PETROL CARS OVER 1,200 CC AND LONGER THAN 4 M.

Despite the high rate, the overall tax on these vehicles will fall from the previous effective 45 % (28 % GST plus cess) to 40 %, easing prices for premium buyers.

Economic Impact

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, speaking at the 'Next Gen GST Reforms' event in Visakhapatnam on September 17, said the overhaul would inject 2 lakh crore into the economy and simplify compliance for businesses. Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran predicted a boost in purchasing power, spurring the demand–production cycle and lifting GDP growth. Economist Garima Kapoor of Elara Capital estimates the reforms could raise consumption demand by 1 %–1.2 %, adding momentum to growth over the next four to six quarters.

A Festive Tailwind

With Navratri underway and Diwali shopping ahead, the timing is designed to amplify consumer confidence. From cheaper daily essentials to reduced hotel tariffs and cinema tickets, the GST 2.0 rollout is set to put more money in shoppers' pockets—and more sparkle in the festive season.

Trump's Aide Tom Homan Caught in Sting Operation Taking ₹44 Lakh Bribe: Report

FAIR REPORT

Washington, D.C. – In a development raising serious questions about political integrity in the United States, former U.S. President Donald Trump's aide, Tom Homan, has been accused of accepting a hefty bribe during a sting operation. According to reports, Homan was caught last year allegedly taking a cash bribe of \$50,000 (approximately 44 lakh) in exchange for promising future government contracts.

The sting operation, reportedly conducted after



receiving prior information, exposed Homan accepting the money under circumstances suggesting an abuse of his political influence. Sources cited in the report said the bribe was linked to assurances that Homan would use his position to secure lucrative

could further intensify scrutiny over individuals closely tied to Trump's political circle as the U.S. moves closer to another election cycle.

Adding to the controversy, reports claim that the FBI Director, Kash Patel, later ordered the closure of the investigation, raising concerns about possible political interference in law enforcement processes. Critics argue that such actions undermine the credibility of institutions tasked with maintaining transparency and accountability.

While Homan has yet to

make a formal public statement, legal experts suggest that if substantiated, the allegations could carry serious criminal implications, including charges of corruption and breach of public trust. Meanwhile, watchdog groups and opposition voices are demanding an independent inquiry to ensure fairness and restore confidence in the system. The episode highlights once again how corruption allegations continue to shadow American politics, reinforcing global concerns about the nexus between money, power, and governance.

PM MODI OFFERS PRAYERS AT MATA TRIPURA SUNDARI TEMPLE IN UDAIPUR, TRIPURA



FAIR REPORT

Udaipur (Tripura), Sept 22 – Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday offered prayers at the historic Mata Tripura Sundari Temple on the first day

of Navratri, coinciding with the start of the Durga Puja season. Sharing the visit on X, the Prime Minister said, "Prayed for the well-being and prosperity of my fellow Indians." During his visit, Modi also re-

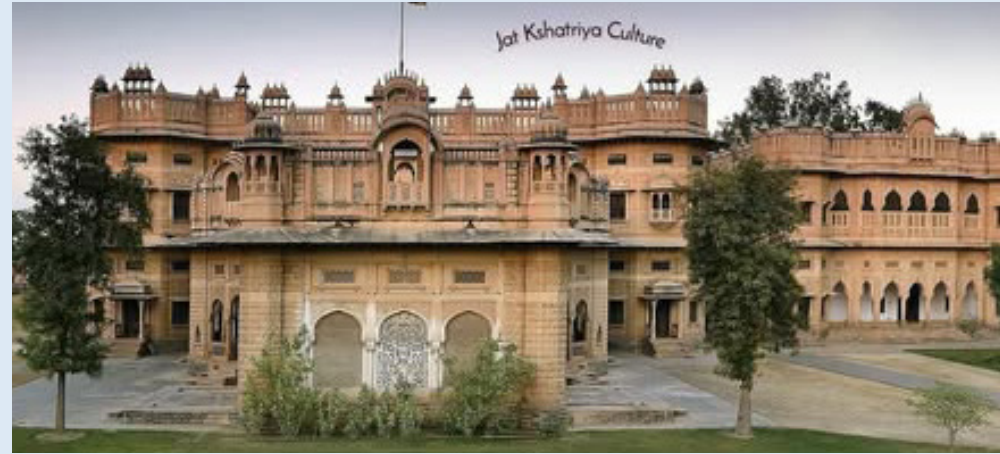
viewed ongoing development works at the temple complex, stressing efforts to attract more pilgrims and tourists to the shrine and to highlight the natural and cultural beauty of Tripura.

Bharatpur Royal Family Feud Spills onto Streets, Tensions Escalate at Moti Mahal

FAIR REPORT

Bharatpur / Rajasthan –The simmering conflict within the Bharatpur royal family took a dramatic turn on Sunday when the rift between father and son erupted into open confrontation on the streets. The dispute, involving prominent royal figure Kuwar Anirudh Singh and his father, escalated after the son allegedly issued threats regarding his claim to the family's legacy and authority.

Following these developments, a group of youths attempted to storm the gates of the historic Moti Mahal, the royal residence, in an effort to hoist a flag and symbolically assert dominance. Eyewit-



nesses reported that the men forcefully broke the palace gates before being stopped by local security and police personnel. The situation quickly grew tense as crowds gathered, raising slogans and demanding recognition of Anir-

udh Singh's rights. Law enforcement officials arrived on the scene and managed to bring the situation under control, preventing further escalation. Police sources confirmed that a case has been registered against unidenti-

fied individuals for trespass and vandalism, though no injuries were reported.

The Bharatpur royal family, descendants of the Jat rulers who once commanded the princely state, has long been regarded with influence and



prestige in the region. However, internal conflicts have increasingly become public, drawing attention to disputes over property, titles, and political authority.

Observers note that the latest flare-up underscores the

fragile balance between heritage and modern-day political aspirations. While Anirudh Singh's supporters accuse the elder leadership of sidelining him, detractors allege that such actions threaten the dignity of the royal legacy. Au-

thorities have stepped up security around Moti Mahal to prevent further incidents. Meanwhile, local leaders have called for restraint and dialogue, warning that continued confrontations could disturb the peace in Bharatpur.

