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Economic & Business

GST Overhaul and Market Reaction

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's recent approval of a major tax restructuring is the dominant economic headline. The new two-rate system is expected to significantly impact consumers and various industries.

New Two-Rate GST System: The GST Council has simplified the tax structure from four slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) to a new system with two primary rates: 5% and 18%. This change is set to take effect from September 22, 2025. A special 40% rate has also been introduced for specific "sin goods" like tobacco and luxury vehicles.

Consumer Relief: The new rates are designed to make a wide range of goods cheaper for the consumer. Items previously taxed at 12% or 18% have been moved to the lower 5% slab. This includes packaged foods, personal care products, and various household items.

Tax Exemptions: Several items have been made completely tax-free (0% GST), including individual health and life insurance policies, UHT milk, and some Indian breads.

Market Impact: The announcement has been met with a positive reaction from the stock market. The Sensex and Nifty surged in early trading, with benchmark indices gaining significantly. Sectors expected to benefit the most include the auto, insurance, agriculture, and FMCG (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods) sectors.

Corporate and Business News

IPO Approvals: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its final approval to 13 companies to proceed with their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) this week. This marks one of the highest weekly IPO clearances in recent years. Notable companies that received the nod include Urban Company and Imagine Marketing, the parent company of the consumer electronics brand Boat.

Swiggy Platform Fee Hike: The food delivery company Swiggy has increased its platform fee to ₹15 per order. This is the third hike in the last three weeks as the company aims to improve its margins ahead of the festive season.

Company Deals and Orders:

BHEL has received a Letter of Intent (LoI) worth ₹2,600 crore from MB Power for a thermal power project.

Poly Medicure has entered into an agreement to acquire up to a 90% stake in the Netherlands-based PendraCare Group for ₹188.50 crore.

RailTel Corporation has secured a new order worth ₹14.94 crore from the Ministry of Home Affairs for CCTV surveillance systems.

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MCQS

1.What are the two new primary GST rates approved by the GST Council?

- a) 5% and 12%
- b) 12% and 18%
- c) 5% and 18%
- d) 18% and 28%

Answer: c) 5% and 18%

The text states that the GST Council has simplified the tax structure to a "two-rate system of 5% and 18%."

2.When are the new GST rates scheduled to take effect?

- a) September 4, 2025
- b) September 12, 2025
- c) September 22, 2025
- d) October 1, 2025

Answer: c) September 22, 2025

The news explicitly mentions, "This change is set to take effect from September 22, 2025."

3.Which of the following items has been made completely tax-free (0% GST)?

- a) Packaged foods
- b) Individual health and life insurance policies
- c) Air conditioners
- d) Tobacco

Answer: b) Individual health and life insurance policies
The text specifies that "individual health and life insurance policies" have been made tax-free.

4.Which sectors are expected to benefit the most from the new GST rates?

- a) IT, real estate, and banking
- b) Auto, insurance, agriculture, and FMCG
- c) Telecom, hospitality, and construction
- d) Metals, mining, and oil & gas

Answer: b) Auto, insurance, agriculture, and FMCG

The news report states that the "Sectors expected to benefit the most include the auto insurance, agriculture, and FMCG...sectors."

5.How many companies received final approval from SEBI for their IPOs this week?

- a) 5
- b) 10
- c) 13
- d) 20

Answer: c) 13





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The text mentions that "SEBI has given its final approval to 13 companies to proceed with their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) this week."

6.Which company received a Letter of Intent (LoI) worth ₹2,600 crore from MB Power?

- a) Poly Medicure
- b) RailTel Corporation
- c) Urban Company
- d) BHEL

Answer: d) BHEL

The report states, "BHEL has received a Letter of Intent (LoI) worth ₹2,600 crore from MB Power."

7.What is the new platform fee per order for Swiggy?

- a) ₹5
- b) ₹10
- c) ₹15
- d) ₹20

Answer: c) ₹15

The news indicates that "The food delivery company Swiggy has increased its platform fee to ₹15 per order."

8.What stake will Poly Medicure acquire in the Netherlands-based PendraCare Group?

- a) Up to 25%
- b) Up to 50%
- c) Up to 75%
- d) Up to 90%

Answer: d) Up to 90%

The text confirms that Poly Medicure will "acquire up to a 90% stake in the Netherlands-based PendraCare Group."

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