

## Morning News Script

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi today and tomorrow. The three-day Conference which began yesterday, is aimed at strengthening Centre–State partnership through structured and sustained dialogue on national development priorities. Chief Secretaries, senior officials of all States and Union Territories and domain experts among others are taking part in the Conference.

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Home Minister Amit Shah has called for establishing a common Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) structure across the country and directed state Directors General of Police to implement it at the earliest. He said, common ATS structure for the police across the entire country, provides an opportunity for uniform preparation to counter terror attacks at every level. Mr Shah was speaking yesterday after inaugurating the two-day ‘Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025’ organized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi. He noted that the NIA has worked extensively to develop a common ATS framework and has already shared it with state police forces. He said, a uniform structure, will ensure standardised preparedness and response mechanisms at every level across the country. The Home Minister highlighted the need for building an impenetrable and strong ‘anti-terrorism grid’ in the country for coming generations so that they can firmly confront the future challenges. Mr Shah stressed that the country must stay two steps ahead as the landscape of terrorism is changing due to the use of technology in terrorist incidents. The Union Minister Shah added that government is bringing an action plan to launch a 360-degree strike on organized crime.

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The year 2025 stands as a defining chapter in India’s development journey. It saw policies translate into progress and intent into impact. In the Special Series, ‘Year of Reforms’, today our correspondent brings a report on India’s progress in the Taxation Sector in 2025.

India’s tax history reflects the evolving relationship between the state and its citizens. From the oppressive Salt Tax challenged by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930, to income tax rates touching an extreme 97.5 per cent during the 1970s, excessive taxation fostered distrust, fear-driven compliance and widespread evasion. The tax reforms initiated by the Narendra Modi government over the past eight years, and decisively carried forward in 2025, mark a clear departure from that legacy. The key pillar of this transition is the next-generation GST reforms. This year, the system was rationalised into two main slabs of 5 and 18 per cent, with clearer classifications, easier registration and simplified compliance.

The impact has been visible in consumption and revenue trends. India recorded its highest-ever Diwali sales at over six trillion rupees, strong Navratri demand, and record automobile sales in October. Households are expected to save about two-and-a-half lakh crore rupees annually due to GST cuts and income tax relief. This year, tax reforms represent not just fiscal restructuring, but a philosophical shift where trust, simplicity and transparency are driving growth and compliance.

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India has expressed grave concern over hostilities against minorities in Bangladesh. Briefing media in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal condemned the recent gruesome killing of a Hindu youth in Mymensingh city of Bangladesh. He said that the perpetrators of the crime must be brought to justice. Mr Jaiswal added that over 2 thousand 900 incidents of violence against minorities including cases of killings, arson, and land grabbing have been documented by independent sources during the tenure of the interim government in Bangladesh. He added that these incidents cannot be brushed aside as mere media exaggeration or dismissed as political violence.

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Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Tripura Legislative Assembly Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen. Describing him as a seasoned parliamentarian and devoted public leader, Mr Longkumer said Mr Sen's long service as Deputy Speaker, Speaker, and MLA from Dharmanagar reflected his commitment to democratic values. Recalling their association through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, he said Mr Sen's passing is an irreparable loss to the Tripura Legislative Assembly, the CPA fraternity, and the people of Tripura. Mr. Longkumer extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that the Almighty grant them strength and courage to bear the irreparable loss.

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And, In Women's cricket, India defeated Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the third T20 International in Thiruvananthapuram last night to take an unassailable 3-Nil lead in five-match series. Chasing a target of 113 runs, India overhauled the score, posting 115 runs for the loss of two wickets in just 13.2 overs .

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