

Modi Calls for Self-Reliance and Economic Reforms on Independence Day

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On August 15, 2025, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an Independence Day address from the Red Fort, highlighting the nation's push for self-reliance amid global trade tensions. Modi outlined the importance of strengthening domestic industries and reducing dependence on foreign imports as part of the government's economic strategy.

In his address, Modi emphasized the government's commitment to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' or Self-Reliant India initiative, urging citizens and businesses to support locally produced goods. He encouraged consumers and industry to consider Indian-made products. This approach is intended to support domestic manufacturing, stimulate economic activity, and reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

Modi announced several economic measures designed to reinforce self-reliance. Starting in October, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is scheduled to be lowered to support domestic consumption, particularly during the upcoming festive season. The government is also establishing a task force to examine reforms aimed at modernizing regulations, enhancing the ease of doing business, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

In addition to economic initiatives, Modi highlighted advancements in strategic sectors. He revealed that India's first domestically produced semiconductor chips are planned to enter the market by the end of 2025, aiming to reduce reliance on imported technology. Other sectors, including electric vehicle batteries and fertilizers, are expected to see increased domestic production under government programs.

Defense capabilities were also addressed. Modi introduced the 'Sudarshan Chakra' defense system, an indigenous initiative intended to enhance national security and build defense autonomy. Specific operational details were not disclosed, but the initiative reflects government plans to strengthen domestic defense capabilities.

Modi also reiterated support for the agricultural sector. He pledged continued assistance for farmers and stated the government's intent to

safeguard their interests amid trade tensions affecting agricultural goods.

The address comes amid trade frictions, particularly with countries imposing tariffs on Indian exports. The Prime Minister's emphasis on self-reliance represents a strategic approach to reducing external economic risks while promoting domestic capability across multiple sectors.

By combining economic measures, technological initiatives, and defense programs, Modi outlined a strategy for India to achieve sustainable growth and strategic autonomy according to government objectives. His Independence Day speech reflected the government's plan for a self-sufficient nation capable of facing global challenges.

The address focused on economic and technological self-reliance, with initiatives designed to strengthen domestic industries and position India for continued development.