



## Time to slash GST



India's economic slowdown is caused by both cyclical and structural factors. Demand must be kickstarted by lowering GST rates. The government must sell off public sector behemoths, deregulate massively and simplify its procedures. The opportunity arising from the US-China trade war can be captured only if India courts investments. Competent and credible economic management is extremely important.



## **Polar Flare**

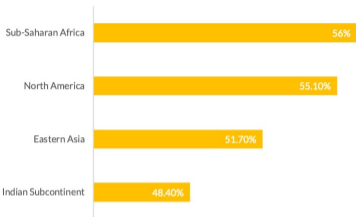
The geopolitics of the Arctic is shifting, thanks to climate change, emerging technologies, and the rise of China. Russia, the most important Arctic country, is also concerned about increasing Chinese ambitions in the region. That's why it has been courting India's leaders, relaxing visa regulations, and signing joint ventures. The region is now a lot more favourable to private Indian investors.

## **Debate Protection**

Lack of transparency around the government privately seeking comments on the data protection bill is counterproductive. The consultations should reflect different views on subjects before making trade-offs in favour of one over the other.



## Percentage of women in employment by region (age 15+)



*Less than half of working age women in India are formally paid for their work*

(Source: ILO)

### **Parting shot:**

No. of undersea cables

China: 13

Hong Kong: 18

China's digital economy subsists on fewer undersea cables than Hong Kong

(Source: [submarinecablemap.com](http://submarinecablemap.com))

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