

# IACE

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## CSR-Funded Eklavya School Infrastructure Development

- ✓ On 4 December, the government signed an MoU to execute CSR-funded infrastructure development for an Eklavya Model Residential School in the National Capital.
- ✓ The agreement was signed jointly by the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), Northern Coalfields Limited, and Oil India Limited.
- ✓ Tribal Affairs Secretary Ranjana Chopra stated that computers and essential facilities will be provided to strengthen the school's educational infrastructure.
- ✓ Northern Coalfields Limited will support 30 schools in Madhya Pradesh under its CSR initiatives.
- ✓ These MoUs were signed with a focus on improving the quality of education for tribal students.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to create enhanced learning opportunities through upgraded facilities.
- ✓ The initiative supports the broader government effort to uplift tribal communities through quality education.



## Statement of Intent on MStar™ Platform

- ✓ On December 1, 2025, a Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and Hitachi MGRM Net Ltd.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to develop a unified national innovation platform called **“MStar™ Global AI Connect.”**
- ✓ The platform will leverage **AI and emerging technologies** to boost innovation and entrepreneurship across India.
- ✓ The SoI was signed by **Dr. Deepak Bagla** (AIM) and **Dr. Bharat Kaushal** (Hitachi India).
- ✓ The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister’s vision of creating a **“Viksit Bharat.”**
- ✓ It will build a **national digital backbone** connecting schools with mentors, incubators, and industry partners.
- ✓ The platform aims to strengthen the **school-to-startup pipeline** and speed up **lab-to-market** transitions.
- ✓ The long-term vision includes creating job creators, strengthening R&D pathways, and making Indian innovations globally export-ready.



## Former Mizoram Governor Swaraj Kaushal passed away at the age of 73

- ✓ On December 4, Swaraj Kaushal, former Governor of Mizoram and husband of late Union Minister Sushma Swaraj, passed away.
- ✓ Swaraj Kaushal was born on 12 July 1952 in Solan.
- ✓ In 1990, he was appointed Governor of Mizoram, becoming the youngest governor ever.
- ✓ He was only 37 years old at the time, and he held the position until 1993.
- ✓ He was known for his distinguished public service career and contribution to legal and constitutional matters.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed grief over his demise.



## Record-Breaking

# Solar Pump Installation: Maharashtra Achieves Global Recognition

- ✓ **Maharashtra earned a Guinness World Record for installing 45,911 solar irrigation pumps in a single month.**
- ✓ Solar irrigation pumps were installed under the Magel Tyala Saur Krushipump scheme.
- ✓ Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution company limited carried out the installation campaign and received global acknowledgment for the achievement.
- ✓ The Solar Pump for All scheme covers most of the pump cost, with farmers paying only 10 percent.
- ✓ Under the scheme, farmers get 30% subsidy from the central government and 60% subsidy from the state government.
- ✓ SC and ST farmers receive a 95 percent subsidy and contribute just 5 percent.
- ✓ Beed district recorded the highest installations with about 7,000 pumps.
- ✓ Jalna followed with roughly 6,000 pumps. Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar added approximately 3,000 pumps.



- ✓ The state plans to roll out 1.05 million solar pumps to support farmers waiting for regular electricity connections.
- ✓ Each installation involves a joint inspection by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution company limited and the beneficiary farmer.
- ✓ Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution company limited is also responsible for maintenance and repairs after installation.

## Manipur Celebrates Fourth Sankirtana Day at Chandrakirti Auditorium

- ✓ **Fourth Sankirtana Day was celebrated by Manipur at the Chandrakirti Auditorium in Imphal.**
- ✓ In 2013, Manipuri Sankirtana was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
- ✓ Manipuri Sankirtana is ritualistic performance art. It combines devotional singing with rhythmic drumming.
- ✓ It also includes dancing. The performances express devotion to Lord Krishna.
- ✓ Manipuri Sankirtana is a central part of Vaishnavite cultural life in Manipur.
- ✓ It is performed at the time of major religious ceremonies.
- ✓ It is also performed at life cycle events from birth to death ceremonies.
- ✓ UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity includes cultural “practices and expressions [that] help demonstrate the diversity of this heritage and raise awareness about its importance.”



## Arjun Erigaisi secured Jerusalem Masters 2025 title by winning over Viswanathan Anand in the final

- ✓ Arjun reached the final by defeating Russian grandmaster Peter Svidler in the semifinal.
- ✓ Viswanathan Anand reached the title match by winning over Ian Nepomniachtchi.
- ✓ Erigaisi got a prize money award of 55,000 US dollars for victory.
- ✓ In the third-place playoff, Svidler claimed third place by defeating Nepomniachtchi.
- ✓ The result in the third-place match came in the second blitz game.
- ✓ Svidler had topped the preliminary stage with eight points from eleven games.
- ✓ Nepomniachtchi, Anand, and Erigaisi shared second position in the preliminaries with 7.5 points each.
- ✓ **Blitz chess** is a time-limited chess. In this type of ordinary chess, both sides has 10 minutes or fewer for playing complete game.



## PM Vishwakarma Scheme & CHAMPIONS Portal

- ✓ As of 1 December 2025, a total of **30 lakh beneficiaries** have been enrolled under the PM Vishwakarma scheme.
- ✓ Out of these, **23.09 lakh beneficiaries** have been trained.
- ✓ MoUs have been signed with India Post Payment Bank, PayTM, PayNearby, BharatPe, and PhonePe to enable **QR code-based digital payment incentives**.
- ✓ Over **6.8 lakh artisans** have received digital payment incentives amounting to **Rs. 22 crore**.
- ✓ Beneficiaries are receiving **online marketing support** through ONDC, FabIndia, Meesho, and similar platforms.
- ✓ Over **30,000 Vishwakarma beneficiaries** have been onboarded onto the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- ✓ The **CHAMPIONS portal** serves as a centralized system for MSME grievance redressal.
- ✓ As of 26 November 2025, **99.24% grievances (1,58,372)** out of 1,59,577 received had been resolved.
- ✓ The PM Vishwakarma scheme, launched on **17 September 2023**, provides **end-to-end assistance to artisans** working in 18 traditional trades.



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On 5 December 2025, RBI lowered the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 percent (new repo rate)

- ✓ RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra informed the decision after Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held from December 3 to 5.
- ✓ The committee unanimously decided to cut the rate with immediate effect.
- ✓ The rate cut comes after GDP growth of 8.2% in the second quarter of the current financial year.
- ✓ India's retail inflation levels stood at record-low of 0.25 percent in October 2025.
- ✓ In the previous monetary policy review on October 1, MPC decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.5 percent.
- ✓ The MPC meetings were held between September 29 and October 1.
- ✓ The rate cut would increase liquidity and support continued economic momentum.



## Union Home Minister Amit Shah started a three-day visit to Gujarat on 5 December 2025

- ✓ He will attend programmes in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vav Tharad, and Banaskantha.
- ✓ He is expected to inaugurate several key infrastructure projects.
- ✓ He is also expected to inaugurate public amenity projects under the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- ✓ Mr Shah's day will start with the inauguration of Swadeshotsav.
- ✓ Swadeshotsav is a event organized by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch at GMDC Ground in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ After this event, Union Home Minister will address NABARD-IAMAI Earth Summit 2025-26.
- ✓ This summit is being organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) & Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- ✓ This is a two-day summit focused on theme of 'Empowering Rural Innovation for Global Change'.



- ✓ The Summit also highlights the role of cooperative societies in rural growth of India.
- ✓ In Gandhinagar, he will dedicate a newly constructed Railway Overbridge and an Underbridge Sports Complex.
- ✓ He will inaugurate a Primary Health Centre and other public welfare projects in his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.
- ✓ He will attend the closing ceremony of the Sansad Sports Festival. This will be followed by inauguration of Ahmedabad Shopping Festival.
- ✓ He will also release the Gujarati edition of “Challenges Inspire Me”. This is a book on Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.

## Cashfree partners with J.P. Morgan Payments to strengthen compliant cross-border payment processing in India

- ✓ **Cashfree** has **partnered with J.P. Morgan Payments**, making J.P. Morgan an Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD-I) bank for the company, enabling compliant processing of import transactions under RBI's Payment Aggregator regulations.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to remove payment-related barriers for global businesses by combining J.P. Morgan's global credibility with Cashfree's homegrown innovation, offering secure, transparent, and reliable cross-border settlements.
- ✓ With India's cross-border e-commerce market projected to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030, the partnership seeks to simplify regulatory complexities and help international brands enter the Indian market faster and more compliantly.



## India Post Releases Commemorative 'My Stamp' to Honour P. Obul Reddy on His Birth Centenary

- ✓ **India Post** released a **customised commemorative 'My Stamp'** to honour the birth centenary of industrialist and Nippo Batteries **founder Pottipatti Obul Reddy**, unveiled in Chennai by Manoj M., Director of Postal Services.
- ✓ Obul Reddy was instrumental in the Indo-Japanese collaboration with Matsushita (Panasonic) in 1972, leading to the founding of Indo National Ltd (Nippo Batteries), which became India's second-largest dry-cell manufacturer.
- ✓ The centenary celebrations highlight Reddy's contributions to industry, philanthropy, and Carnatic music, inspiring citizens to uphold the values of integrity, purpose, and giving back to society.

