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Promotion of gi tagged indian textiles



- Ministry of Textiles, Government of India promotes registration under Geographical Indication (GI) of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act 1999, in respect of handloom and handicraft products in pan India

Financial assistance is provided for the following:

- Rs. 1.50 lakh for meeting the expenses in registering the designs/products.
- Rs.1.50 lakh to impart training to personnel of IA and for effective enforcement of G.I. registration.
- Total 106 handloom products, 6 products logos and 227 handicraft products have been registered under the GI Act, 1999.
- Further, to promote the GI handloom products exhibitions are organised across the country including participation in various crafts melas and Dilli Haat programme.
- Recently, an event - GI & Beyond "Virasat se VikasTak", a GI Seminar was organized highlighting and to promote the unique cultural and historical significance of GI-tagged handloom products from various regions, demonstrating their authenticity and craftsmanship to a global audience.

- Government of India through Central Silk Board is implementing “Silk Samagra2” scheme for the development of silk sector in the country and supporting states to enhance production of silk and silk products including GI-tagged silk products.
- The Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 provides legal protection to the GI of goods etc. and prevents unauthorized use of these by others.
- Financial assistance of up to ₹1.50 lakh (or actual, as approved by concerned department) is provided for effective enforcement of GI registration, legal cases related to the protection of GIs, and preparation of legal documentation.

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Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya & SAP Sign MoU, to Digitally Skill Professionals in India's Logistics and Transport Sector

- In alignment with the Government of India's vision for a Digital India, Skill India, and the advancement of sustainable infrastructure in the technology sector, SAP Labs India has inaugurated its state-of-the-art Innovation Park at Devanahalli, Bengaluru
- Once fully operational, it will house 15,000 professionals, making it SAP's largest office in India, and will anchor Global AI roles in Product Engineering and Customer Services & Delivery.
- SAP and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the inauguration.
- This strategic alliance will contribute meaningfully to the Government's Skill India Mission, empowering India's logistics and transport sector with digitally skilled professionals.

About Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya:

- Established: 2018
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat
- Chancellor: Union Minister of Railways



India partners with the UN under the Global Capacity Building Initiative for Asia, Africa and the Caribbean countries

- Government of India launched the 1st phase of four development projects under the “India- United Nations Global Capacity Building Initiative” to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for nine partner countries.
- It is a joint initiative by the GoI and the UN to support Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean countries through South–South cooperation by sharing India’s successful development models.
- It was announced during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) as part of India’s G20 Presidency legacy, in September 2023, by Dr. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
- To provide demand-driven and specialised training through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme along with UN agencies
- ITEC programme offers 12,000 training slots with 400 specialised courses to nearly 160 countries in the world.
- The first phase comprises nine partner countries with four different courses.



MSDE Organises Workshop on the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation with State Government officials at Kaushal Bhawan, Delhi



- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised a daylong workshop with senior officers from the State Governments of Assam, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Telangana and of the UT of J&K at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Theme for the day long workshop was the “National Scheme for ITI Upgradation”.
- The National Scheme for ITI upgradation was approved in May 2025, following the announcement made in the Union Budget 2024-25.
- This Scheme envisages upgradation of 1000 Govt. ITIs in a hub & spoke model as state-led, industry-managed skilling institutions.
- 200 ITIs will function as hub institutions and 800 as spokes.

- A hub ITI will on an average have 4 spoke ITIs with all upgraded ITIs equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, machinery and equipment.
- The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to advance the skilling and entrepreneurship ecosystem across States, with MSDE reaffirming its role in facilitating convergence, capacity building, and guidance to meet the goal of driving excellence in Govt. owned ITIs envisioned in the new Scheme.

Recent msde related news:

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship observed Swachhata Pakhwada 2025.
- Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signs a Memorandum of Understanding to empower the women of Self-Help Groups through structured skilling, entrepreneurship development, and market-aligned livelihood interventions.

RS-28 Sarmat

- As tensions escalate between the United States and Russia, the spotlight is back on one of the deadliest weapons in Russia's nuclear arsenal, the RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), dubbed 'Satan 2' by NATO.
- The RS-28 Sarmat is Russia's new generation intercontinental ballistic missile.
- It is a three-stage, liquid-fueled missile with a range of 18,000 km and a launch weight of more than 208 tonnes.
- It is the world's heaviest ICBM.
- Maximum speed of 25,500 kph (about Mach 20).
- It can carry a 10-ton payload and can load a wide variety of warhead options.
- It can carry up to 16 independently targetable nuclear warheads as well as Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles.
- RS-28 Sarmat



Nigerian Scientist Prof Ademola Adenle Receives First MS Swaminathan Award For Food And Peace

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi instituted a global award in memory of the father of India's Green Revolution, Professor M S Swaminathan, to recognise the contributions of scientists from the developing world who have worked toward "Food and Peace."
- During the M S Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in Delhi, Modi conferred the first M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace to Nigerian scientist Prof Ademola A Adenle for his efforts in combating hunger in Nigeria.
- Prof Swaminathan passed away on 23 September 2023, at the age of 98. He conferred the Bharat Ratna, country's highest civilian award, posthumously, in 2024.



12th World Games 2025 Kicks Off in China

- A 17-member Indian contingent is set to participate in the World Games 2025, which began on August 7, 2025, in Chengdu, China.
- Held every four years since 1981
- India has participated in the World Games since its inaugural edition in 1981 and has so far won a total of five medals: one gold, one silver, and three bronze.
- The country's only gold medal was won by Aditya Mehta in billiards in 2013.
- Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone won a bronze medal in men's singles at the inaugural World Games in Santa Clara in 1981.

World Games Key Facts

- First Edition: Santa Clara, USA, 1981
- Previous Edition: Birmingham, USA, 2022
- Next Edition: Karlsruhe, Germany, 2029



Chhattisgarh Emerges as Major Ni-Cu-PGE Mineral Belt with Breakthrough Discovery in Mahasamund

- A significant deposit of Nickel, Copper, and Platinum Group Elements (Ni-Cu-PGE) has been discovered in the Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh, India.
- Deccan Gold Mines Limited (DGML) was granted a 30 sq km Composite Licence for the Bhalukona-Jamnidihi block in Chhattisgarh, allowing exploration and mining, with ongoing exploration showing promising results.
- A 700-meter-long mineralized zone has been identified within mafic-ultramafic rock formations.
- Geophysical surveys show the presence of sulphide mineralization extending up to 300 meters in depth, indicating substantial resource potential.

Platinum Group Elements (PGEs)

- About: PGEs are a set of six metallic elements—platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), rhodium (Rh), ruthenium (Ru), osmium (Os), and iridium (Ir).
- Major Ni-Cu-PGE deposits are mined in places like South Africa, Russia, and Canada.
- Importance: Ni-Cu-PGE deposits are globally significant due to their essential roles in various high-technology sectors.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Attend SCO Summit

- The 25th edition of the SCO summit is scheduled to be held in Tianjin on August 31 and September 1. This will be Modi's first visit to China since 2018
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- India participated in the 24th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Belarus has become the 10th member state of the SCO.
- The SCO originated from the "Shanghai Five," formed in 1996, which included China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- The SCO was established in Shanghai in 2001 with the addition of Uzbekistan as the sixth member.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002 and came into force in 2003.
- The group was expanded in 2017 when India and Pakistan became members. Iran joined the group in 2023.
- The SCO Secretariat is located in Beijing.
- Observer States: Afghanistan and Mongolia.
- Dialogue Partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Egypt, Nepal, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.



ICICI Bank hikes minimum balance for new savings accounts fivefold to Rs.50,000

ICICI BANK HIKES MIN BALANCE FOR SAVINGS A/CS FROM RS 10K TO RS 50K



- The second largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has effected a steep five fold increase in the minimum average monthly balance requirement
- The changed minimum balance requirement is applicable to only new savings accounts (non-salary) opened from August across all regions with the demand in metros going up to Rs 50,000 from Rs 10,000 and in non-metros to Rs 25,000 from Rs 5,000 now.
- Non-maintenance of the required balance will invite a penalty of 6% of the required balance deficit or Rs 500, whichever is less
- For new savings accounts opened from this month in rural branches the balance requirement is Rs 10,000 compared to Rs 2,500 earlier.
- However, the interest that these accounts will earn remains unchanged at a low 2.5 percent per annum, one of the lowest in the industry after SBI's 2.25 per cent rate

- The new account holders in ICICI Bank will however get certain fee waivers such as free IMPS transactions and also free cheque books.
- Cash withdrawals at branches will follow the same structure—three free monthly transactions, Rs 150 per additional transaction
- For ATM transactions at non-ICICI Bank machines in the six metro locations of Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, the bank will levy Rs 23 per financial transaction and Rs 8.5 per non-financial transaction after the first three monthly transactions.
- For cash deposits at branches and cash recycler machines, a customer will be allowed three free transactions per month. Thereafter, each transaction will be charged at Rs.150.

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IRCTC Payments Ltd. Received RBI's In-Principle Approval to Operate as Online PA

- IRCTC Payments Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has received the In-Principle Approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator
- At present, IRCTC has its own PA in place named 'IRCTC iPay', which processes payments through all modes like: internet banking, debit and credit card, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), among others.

Recent Payment Aggregator related news:

- Instifi has received Certificate of Authorization, a final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a licensed online Payment Aggregator under the Payments and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.
- EximPe has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Payment Aggregator for Cross-Border Export and Import activities.
- Xflow has received the in Principle Authorization from Reserve Bank of India to operate as an online Payment Aggregator for CrossBorder (PA-CB) transactions.



Cabinet approves Budgetary Support for Multidisciplinary Education and Research improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme with an outlay of Rs.4200 crore

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for implementation of the ‘Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education’ (MERITE) Scheme in 275 technical institutions comprising 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics.
- The objective of the scheme is to improve the quality, equity and governance in technical education covering all States/UTs by implementing interventions aligned with the National Educational Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).
- It is a ‘Central Sector Scheme’ with total financial implication of Rs.4200 crore for a period from 2025-26 to 2029-30. Out of Rs.4200 crore, there will be an external assistance of Rs.2100 crore from World Bank as loan.
- The initiative emphasizes enhancing students' skills to improve their employability through a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach.
- Key interventions include offering internship opportunities, updating curricula to align with industry requirements, organizing faculty development programs, and setting up research hubs.
- Additionally, support will be provided to incubation and innovation centers, skill and maker labs, and language workshops.
- The major reform areas in the policy include revamping curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, multidisciplinary programs among technical courses, strengthening research ecosystem, development of future academic administrators, faculty skill upgradation, addressing gender gaps in technical education and reducing digital divide etc.

**Cabinet approves
Budgetary Support
for MERITE Scheme
with an outlay
of Rs.4200 crore**