

# IACE

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## India Commissions First Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant at Kandla Port, Gujarat

- On 3 August, PM Narendra Modi lauded the commissioning of India's first Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant in the port sector, established at Kandla, Gujarat.
- The initiative has been undertaken by the Deendayal Port Authority, marking a key step towards achieving India's Net-Zero emissions target.
- The green hydrogen plant was inaugurated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on July 31.
- In May 2025, just four months after PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the 10 MW green hydrogen facility during his visit to Bhuj, the plant became operational.
- With this, Kandla has become the first Indian port to have an indigenous green hydrogen facility at megawatt scale, underlining Gujarat's growing role in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.
- The facility is expected to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices in India's maritime sector.
- India has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, with green hydrogen playing a central role in that transition.



## **PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' 2025 Creates Guinness World Record with 3.53 Crore Registrations**

- Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2025 sets Guinness World Record for “Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month.”
- 3.53 crore valid registrations on MyGov platform for the 8th edition of PPC.
- Award presented in New Delhi in presence of Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Jitin Prasada.
- Record verified by Guinness World Records adjudicator Rishi Nath.
- Initiative aims to reduce exam stress and promote joyful, holistic learning since its launch in 2018.
- 2025 edition garnered over 21 crore viewership across media platforms.
- Supports stress-free, experiential learning over rote memorization.
- Time management, digital distraction handling, emotional resilience, and mindfulness.
- Transformed into a campaign promoting exams as a celebration of learning, aiding vision of a Viksit Bharat.



# First-Ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival Showcases Regional Unity and Cultural Heritage

- The first BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival held in New Delhi at Bharat Mandapam.
- Opened by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- Hosted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- **Theme:** ‘SaptaSur – Seven Nations, One Melody’ symbolising unity in diversity.
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- First proposed by PM Narendra Modi at the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand, April 2025.
- Aimed to promote people-to-people ties and strengthen regional cooperation.
- Strengthened soft power diplomacy and set precedent for future cultural collaborations in the Bay of Bengal region.



## Former Jharkhand CM and Tribal Leader Shibu Soren Passes Away at 81

- Shibu Soren, former Jharkhand CM and JMM co-founder, died on 4 August 2025 in Delhi at the age of 81 due to kidney-related illness.
- Popularly known as “Dishom Guruji” for his role in tribal movements.
- Born on 11 January 1944 in Nemra village, Ramgarh district, he began as a social reformer.
- Led campaigns against exploitative moneylenders and promoted education for tribal children.
- Co-founded Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in 1972 with A.K. Roy and Binod Bihari Mahato to demand a separate Jharkhand state.
- Played a key role in the creation of Jharkhand in 2000, championing tribal identity and rights.
- Served multiple terms as Jharkhand CM but never completed a full tenure; also served as Union Coal Minister.
- Remembered as a grassroots leader, social justice advocate, and central figure in Jharkhand’s political and cultural identity.



Former Jharkhand CM **Shibu Soren** passes away at 81

## Telangana is rising as India's handloom hub with a ₹10,000 cr mega textile park



- On 3 August, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy announced that Telangana is rapidly evolving into a handloom hub, driven by the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park in Warangal.
- The park is expected to attract investments worth ₹10,000 crore and generate employment for around two lakh individuals.
- Under central schemes, 100 electronic jacquard weaving machines have been distributed, and 31 handloom companies established.
- The Centre is reviving traditional crafts like Himroo fabrics, Pithambari sarees, and Armour silk, enhancing cultural preservation.
- Handloom clusters are being supported in Siddipet, Kamalapur, Dubbak, and Warangal, with 900 weavers trained in modern techniques.

- ₹70 crore worth of Mudra loans have been sanctioned to support handloom weavers' businesses in Telangana.
- The handloom sector accounts for 2.3% of the country's GDP, 13% of industrial output, and 12% of exports, making India the sixth largest exporter.
- The government is pursuing a 5F strategy like farm to fiber, fabric, fashion, and foreign markets under the Make in India program.
- Handloom exports were valued at ₹3 lakh crore in 2023–24, with a target of reaching ₹9 lakh crore by 2030.
- Handloom weavers are being given a pension of Rs. 8,000 per month, and a scholarship of Rs. 2 lakh is being given to their children wishing to pursue higher education, including textile design.

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# **NITI Aayog Unveils \$200 Billion EV Opportunity Report to Accelerate India's Clean Mobility Transition**

- NITI Aayog released “Unlocking a \$200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India” on 4th August 2025 in New Delhi.
- Launched by Shri Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog, in presence of B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Kamran Rizvi, O.P. Agarwal, and Sudhendu Sinha.
- India aims for 30% EV sales by 2030 across all vehicle categories.
- EV sales in India rose from 50,000 in 2016 to 2.08 million in 2024; global sales rose from 918,000 to 18.78 million in same period.
- India's EV penetration improved from one-fifth of global level in 2020 to over two-fifth in 2024.
- Report based on seven stakeholder convenings with government, industry, and research experts.
- High costs, limited charging infrastructure, and supply chain constraints.
- Incentives for manufacturers/consumers, charging network expansion, and battery production support.
- Blueprint for economic growth and environmental sustainability through a unified national EV strategy.



## UPI Introduces New Tech-Policy Updates to Boost Security and Efficiency



- On 1st August 2025, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's leading real-time payment system, has introduced key tech-policy updates aimed at improving transaction security, optimizing server usage, and streamlining recurring payments.
- These changes come as UPI surpasses 12 billion monthly transactions, demanding more robust infrastructure and user safeguards.
- Daily Cap: Balance check limit at 50 times/day; account views capped at 25/day
- Auto-Display: Account balance shown automatically post-transaction
- AutoPay Slots: Scheduled only during off-peak hours for load balancing
- Fraud Control: Recipient's name and transaction ID shown before payment confirmation
- Chargebacks: Max 10/month, with 5 per merchant allowed
- Non-Compliance: May lead to API restrictions or user onboarding suspension

## **NPCI IN NEWS 2025**

- NPCI and IDRBT Sign MoU to Jointly Develop Training Programmes Enabling Payment Security and Cyber Resilience  
NPCI will start delinking UPI IDs linked to the mobile number revocation list (MNRL) and the digital intelligence platform (DIP) from April 1, 2025.
- NPCI has extended the deadline for implementing transaction volume cap on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps by two years till December 31, 2026.
- NPCI removed the user onboarding limit for WhatsApp Pay on January 6, 2025
- NPCI approved 20 third-party Unified Payments Interface (UPI) applications, a record since UPI's launch in 2016.
- NPCI has launched a UPI Safety Awareness Campaign, Main Moorkh Nahi Hoon
- NPCI International and Qatar National Bank (QNB) have partnered to launch UPI payments in Qatar
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is developing a UPI-like system for the Bank of Namibia.

## **The first projects under the “India-UN Global South Capacity Initiative” launched by India**

- On August 1, 2025, the first tranche of four development projects was launched under the "India UN Global Capacity Building Initiative.“
- Secretary (West) Tanmaya Lal led the launch event in the presence of UN officials, foreign dignitaries, and MEA representatives.
- The initiative had been announced during the 78th UN General Assembly in 2023 by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- These projects aim to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through South-South cooperation, with technical support from Indian institutions.
- India is a leader in capacity-building efforts for the Global South.
- ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) is its flagship program, under which over 12,000 training slots are provided every year to around 160 countries in over 400 specialized courses.
- More than 225,000 training slots have been provided since its inception.
- In the first phase, four projects have been identified for implementation, including:
  - Rice Fortification and Supply Chain Management in Nepal with support of World Food Programme;
  - Digital health platform for Zambia and Laos PDR in collaboration with UNDP;
  - Census preparation in Belize, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund; and
  - Vocational training program for South Sudan in collaboration with UNESCO.
- For these projects, ITEC training institutes have been identified, and the courses are expected to be implemented from September 2025.

## Magnus Carlsen Clinches First-Ever Chess Esports World Cup 2025 in Riyadh

- Magnus Carlsen won the inaugural **Chess Esports World Cup 2025** held in Riyadh, defeating Alireza Firouzja in the grand final.
- Representing **Team Liquid**, Carlsen beat **Team Falcons'** Firouzja with 4 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss in a seven-game final series.
- Carlsen maintained his **world No. 1 Blitz ranking** (2937 Elo) with dominant play and clock management.
- The tournament had **16 players from 13 teams**, with a GSL-style group stage followed by single-elimination playoffs.
- Carlsen reached the final after defeating Hikaru Nakamura in the semifinals, completing a double win over Team Falcons.
- **Prize money:** Carlsen earned **\$250,000** and 1,000 Club Championship points; Firouzja won **\$190,000** for second place.
- The event showcased the **growing influence of esports in chess**, with one of the largest prize pools in chess history.



## FIFA & AIFF Launch India's First FIFA Talent Academy for Girls in Hyderabad

- FIFA and AIFF launched the country's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The initiative is part of **FIFA's Talent Development Scheme (TDS)** to nurture top young football talent.
- The **MoU** was signed during the Telangana Sports Conclave in Hyderabad, attended by CM Revanth Reddy and AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey.
- **Gachibowli Stadium Complex** will serve as the academy's base, offering world-class training and residential facilities.
- The academy will host **30 boys and 30 girls annually**, providing education, medical care, nutrition, and mental wellness programs.
- It is a **game-changer for women's football**, giving girls from Telangana and across India a direct pathway to national and international levels.
- The project supports AIFF's vision of **qualifying for the U17 FIFA World Cups** for both men and women.
- Globally, it is among the **few FIFA Talent Academies**, setting a precedent for future academies in India.
- Offers a **360-degree development ecosystem** covering sports science, nutrition, mental health, and formal education.



## **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) have signed an MoU to accelerate the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies in India**

- This was signed during the "Industry 4.0 Workshop for CPSEs" in Guwahati.
- The event was organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance.
- Under the MoU, BSNL and NRL will deploy India's first 5G Captive Non-Public Network in the refinery sector. This will enhance industrial connectivity.
- The project aims to leverage domestic 5G infrastructure to ensure secure and real-time operations for refineries.
- The Secretary of Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) praised the initiative for its potential to modernize India's industrial base.
- He highlighted the job opportunities it would create, especially in the North East.



## **RBI Approves Merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Co-operative Bank**, the largest urban co-operative bank in India. The merger will take effect from August 4, 2025.
- Following the merger, all assets, liabilities, and branches of New India Co-operative Bank will be taken over by Saraswat Bank, and all existing customers will be treated as Saraswat Bank customers from the effective date, with full protection of their interests.
- The merger was approved by the shareholders of both banks—Saraswat Bank at its Special General Meeting on July 22, 2025, and New India Co-operative Bank at its Annual General Meeting—before receiving RBI's final nod.

