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India and Israel Sign MoU to Expand Defence Cooperation

- An MoU signed between India and Israel to expand defence cooperation.
- On 5 November, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Israel to expand the scope of bilateral defence cooperation.
- The MoU was exchanged during the 17th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on defence cooperation held in Tel Aviv.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Israeli Defence Ministry Director-General Major General Amir Baram.
- The agreement aims to provide a unified policy direction for strengthening defence collaboration.
- It will support the sharing of advanced technology and promote co-development and co-production.
- The issue of terrorism and the need for continued joint commitment to counter the threat were also emphasised.



Gogabeel Lake Designated as a New Ramsar Site in Bihar



- Gogabeel Lake in Katihar district of Bihar has been designated as a Ramsar site of international importance.
- With this addition, the total number of Ramsar sites in India has increased to 94.
- Bihar now has six Ramsar sites, while Tamil Nadu (20 sites) ranks first and Uttar Pradesh (10 sites) ranks second.
- India continues to rank first in Asia and third in the world after the UK (176) and Mexico (144) in terms of the total number of Ramsar sites under a global convention.
- Globally, there are 2,546 Ramsar sites under the convention.
- Gogabeel Lake is Bihar's first community reserve, conserved and managed by the local community.
- It is an oxbow wetland situated between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers, merging with them during floods.
- Wetlands are areas of land covered by water, either temporarily or permanently.

Ramsar Convention:

- It is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation of wetlands.
- It was signed on 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, for the protection of wetland sites in the world.
- It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. Therefore, every year on 2nd February, World Wetlands Day is observed.
- The convention came into force on 21 December 1975.

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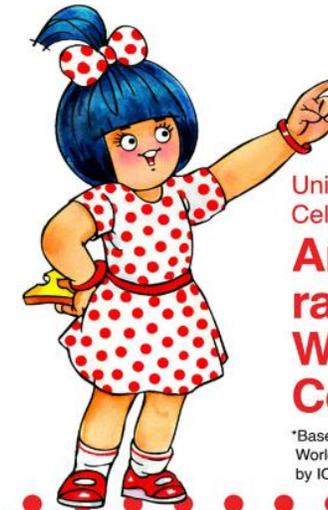
Election Commission Launches International Election Visitors' Program 2025

- The International Election Visitors' Program 2025 launched by the Election Commission.
- The International Election Visitors' Program 2025 has been commenced by the Election Commission at the India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi.
- As part of the program, a total of 14 participants are participating from seven countries including France, South Africa, Belgium, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Colombia.
- They will observe polling during the first phase of the Bihar Assembly Elections on the 6th November 2025.
- The program includes a two-day visit to Bihar, where participants will visit Electronic Voting Machine dispatch centres.
- The International Election Visitors Program is a flagship program of the ECI to promote international cooperation and engagement with election management bodies of other countries and international organisations.



IFFCO and Amul Recognised Among World's Leading Cooperatives

- IFFCO and Amul have been recognised among the world's leading cooperatives.
- The recognition comes from the ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 rankings.
- The rankings were announced in Doha, Qatar. The list highlights their outstanding global performance. It is based on GDP per capita contribution.
- Amul has built a vast dairy network and represents India's cooperative model.
- IFFCO stands out for its farmer-driven approach and promotes sustainable fertiliser production.
- Both cooperatives show India's legacy of self-reliant growth with their work is rooted in community-based development.
- Amul or Anand Milk Union Limited is owned by Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, a cooperative society.
- Its founder is Tribhuvandas Patel and headquarters are in Anand, Gujarat, India. It was started in 1946.
- IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) is a multi-state cooperative society.
- It carries out work of manufacturing and marketing of fertiliser. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It was founded in 1967.



United by purpose.
Celebrated by the world.

**Amul (GCMMF)
ranked
World's No.1
Cooperative.**

*Based on GDP per capita ranking,
World Cooperative Monitor Report 2025
by ICA & EURISCE.



CBSE Inaugurates First International Sahodaya Conference in Dubai

- CBSE inaugurated its first International Sahodaya Conference in Dubai.
- It also hosted the 31st Annual Sahodaya School Complexes meet. This marked the event's first-ever global edition.
- Over 1,000 education leaders and stakeholders attended the conference.
- The theme of conference was “Rooted in Wisdom, Rising with Vision: Reimagining Education through NEP 2020.”
- The conference was organised under the framework of India's National Education Policy 2020.
- Key objectives included building international partnerships and advancing NEP 2020 implementation.
- CBSE Chairperson Rahul Singh announced that CBSE will introduce subjects at two levels—standard and advanced—from Class 9 onwards.
- These changes will begin in the 2026–27 academic year.
- Singh also unveiled the CBSE Global Curriculum 26, designed to align with international standards.
- The conference brought together policymakers and education regulators from across the Gulf.



Daya Dongre dies at the age of 85

- She was a veteran Marathi actress. She was born in Amravati, Maharashtra.
- She received recognition after winning an All-India Radio singing competition.
- She started her career in acting as a teenager.
- She received acclaim for her performances in Marathi TV serials like Tuzhi Majhi Jodi Jamli Re, Nanda Saukhya Bhare, Yachasathi Kela Hota Atthahas, and Lekure Udand Jali.
- She started performing on the stage at the age of 16 with the play Rambha.
- She got national prominence with Doordarshan's Gajara.
- Government of Maharashtra honoured her for her roles in 'Maaybaap' and 'Khatyal Sasu Nathal Soon'.



India Sets Steel Capacity Targets of 300 MT by 2030 and 500 MT by 2047

- Government said that India aims to achieve 500 million tonnes of steel capacity by 2047 and 300 million tonnes by 2030.
- This was said by secretary of the Ministry of Steel, Sandeep Poudrik, while addressing the first session of the CII Steel Summit 2025 in New Delhi.
- He said India's steel capacity has nearly doubled to 200 million tonnes from about 100 million tonnes a decade ago.
- The secretary highlighted this has been supported by strong infrastructure growth and rising domestic demand.
- 8.5% growth has been recorded by the sector in the first half of this year. The demand touched 152 million tonnes in 2024-25.
- Green and hydrogen-based steel technologies are being actively promoted by the government under the National Mission on Sustainable Steel.
- The aim of National Steel Policy 2017 is to raise the per capita consumption to 160 kg by 2030.
- Steel Summit 2025 was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with the theme “Building a Sustainable and Globally Competitive Steel Industry for Viksit Bharat”.



Telangana Launches Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub

- Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub has been launched by Telangana to strengthen AI research and development.
- Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub aims to place Telangana among the top 20 global AI hubs by 2035.
- Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub will serve as a central platform for AI-driven innovation.
- It will also support research and collaboration across multiple sectors.
- The state government wants Telangana to become a leading destination for AI research and technology in India.
- The government has formed partnerships with leading academic and research institutions, including IIIT, BITS Pilani, ISB, NALSAR, IIT Hyderabad, and C-DAC.
- It has also partnered with global technology companies like Google, Microsoft, Infosys, and Amazon.



International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025) to be Held in New Delhi

- The International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025) will be held in New Delhi.
- The International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025) will be hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on 11–12 November at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Discussions will focus on the development and applications of green hydrogen across sectors.
- The conference supports the implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Sessions will include thematic dialogues and round-table interactions for scaling production and building demand.
- Financing, certification, port readiness and skill development are among the key discussion themes.
- The event aims to align government, industry and research priorities for coordinated progress.
- Delegations from IRENA, Hydrogen Europe, H2 Global Foundation, Korea Hydrogen Alliance and the Port of Rotterdam will participate.



Three Indian Cities Join Global Cool Cities Accelerator Initiative



- **Cool Cities Accelerator** is a global initiative jointly launched by the **C40 Cities Network** and the **Rockefeller Foundation**.
- The primary aim is to make major cities **Heat-Resilient** in response to rising **Heat Waves** caused by climate change.
- The program targets that by **2030, 33 cities worldwide** will be transformed into **heat-resilient urban zones**.
- It focuses on reducing the **Urban Heat Island Effect (UHI)**, where urban areas experience significantly higher temperatures than surrounding rural regions.
- **Three Indian cities** selected under this initiative:
 - **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**
 - **Mumbai (Maharashtra)**
 - **Bengaluru (Karnataka)**
- The program strengthens and expands **Heat Action Plans (HAPs)** that manage heat-related emergencies in cities.

- It promotes **cooling infrastructure**, such as:
 - Urban trees and green spaces
 - Cool/reflective roofs
 - Shaded public areas
 - Water access points
- The initiative improves **Early Warning Systems** to alert the public before severe heatwave conditions.
- It encourages changes in **Urban Planning and Building Codes** to support **climate-adaptive construction**.
- Special emphasis is placed on protecting **vulnerable groups** (slum residents, elderly, outdoor workers) from heat-related health risks and mortality.

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Seven Indian Institutes Rank in Asia's Top 100 in QS Asia University Rankings 2026



- **Seven Indian institutions** have been ranked among the **top 100 in Asia** in the **QS Asia University Rankings 2026** released on **November 4, 2025**.
- **Seven Indian institutions** ranked in the **Top 100** of QS Asia University Rankings 2026: **IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IISc Bengaluru, and Delhi University**.
- **IIT Delhi**, ranked **59**, is the **highest-ranked Indian institution** for the **fifth consecutive year**.
- The rankings were released by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, a global higher education analytics organisation.
- Overall, **20 Indian institutions** are in the **top 200**, and **66 Indian institutions** are ranked in the **top 500** in Asia.
- Compared to the previous year:
- **36 Indian institutions improved**,
- **16 retained the same position**,
- **105 institutions declined**.

- India was recognized as the **best-performing country in Asia** on the metric “**Staff with PhD**”, indicating strong research qualifications.
- The **University of Hong Kong** secured **Rank 1** in Asia, followed by **Peking University** at **Rank 2**.
- **National University of Singapore (NUS)** and **Nanyang Technological University (NTU)** were jointly ranked **3rd**.
- Top positions in the rankings were largely dominated by institutions from **Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore, South Korea, and Malaysia**.

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SBI Launches 'SBI STAR' Awards to Honour Employee Excellence Beyond Professional Achievements

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a new annual employee excellence award named **'SBI STAR' (Staff Talent Acknowledgement & Recognition)** to honour employees' achievements beyond professional roles, focusing on their talents in diverse fields.
- The initiative aims to encourage holistic employee engagement and recognise exceptional contributions in Arts, Literature, Sports, Culture, Social Work, and Environmental initiatives, promoting organisational pride and well-being.
- The SBI STAR framework follows a fair and transparent selection process, allowing self-nomination by employees, evaluation at Circle or Vertical levels, and final selection by the Corporate Centre in Mumbai

