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India witnesses a significant rise in women's workforce participation

- India has experienced a significant rise in women's workforce participation.
- The rate increased to around 42% in 2023–24. It was 23% in 2017–18.
- World Bank data shows India led BRICS nations. Over the past decade, India saw the highest increase in female labour participation among BRICS countries.
- Government policies played a key role in this progress. These policies expanded women's access to skills, credit, and formal employment.
- The government introduced several initiatives to support women in the workplace.
- Women are now exempted from fees for competitive exams. They are also entitled to 730 days of Child Care Leave.
- Women in government service receive 180 days of maternity leave.
- Efforts are made to post spouses at the same location.
- Various ministries launched employment and training programs for women.
- These programs aim to give women relevant skills for today's job market.
- Women's participation in the workforce is seen as crucial for national growth.
- It is central to achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047.

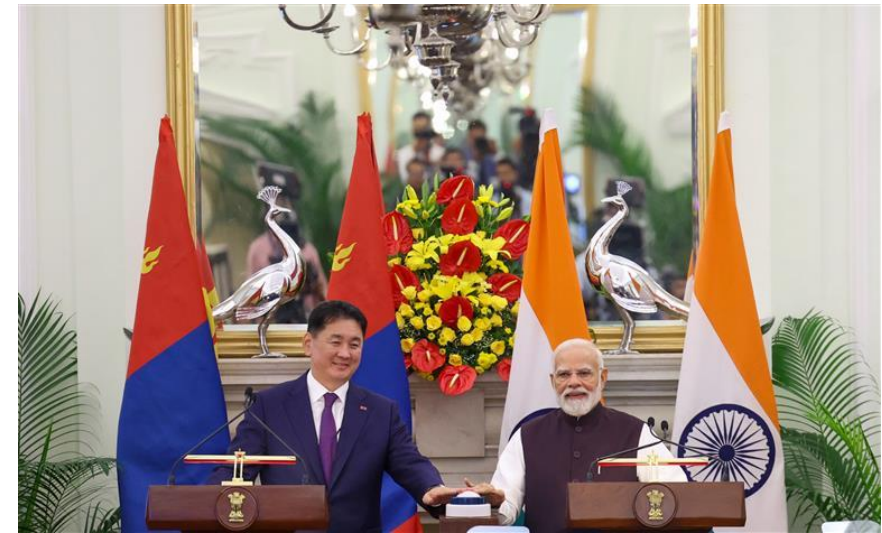
NSD and Bharat Bhavan sign MoU to revive Rangmandal Repertory in Bhopal

- A MoU have been signed between the National School of Drama (NSD) and Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal.
- The purpose of MoU is to revive the Rangmandal Repertory, which had been inactive for more than twenty years.
- The collaboration aims to restore it and promote quality theatre.
- It will benefit audiences in Madhya Pradesh and across India.
- NSD Director Chittaranjan tripathy announced the development.
- The MoU was signed on October 11. Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat attended the signing event.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav was also present.
- Bharat Bhavan is a multi-arts complex and museum. It is located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- It was established by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. It is also funded by MP Government.



India and Mongolia sign 10 MoUs to boost bilateral cooperation across key sectors

- Ten MoUs have been signed between India and Mongolia to strengthen cooperation in several key areas.
- The MoUs are for cooperation in heritage site restoration in Mongolia, Humanitarian aid, promotion of Cooperatives, and sharing of digital solutions.
- The MoUs are also for cooperation in immigration, geology and mineral resources.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa released special postage stamps commemorating 70 years of diplomatic ties between India and Mongolia.
- Free e-visas for Mongolian citizens have been announced by PM Modi.
- Nalanda University and the Gandan Monastery will be linked to enhance educational and cultural cooperation between India and Mongolia.
- India is helping Mongolia build an oil refinery, supported by a \$1.7 billion line of credit from India.
- Mongolia is planning to start chartered flights to Amritsar and New Delhi.
- President Khurelsukh is in India for a four-day visit. This is President Khurelsukh's first visit to India since assuming office.



PM Modi to visit Andhra Pradesh on October 16 to inaugurate ₹13,430 crore development projects

- PM Modi will visit Andhra Pradesh on 16 October and offer prayers at the Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam.
- The temple is located in the Nandyal district. He will also visit the Sree Shivaji Spoorthi Kendra in Srisailam.
- He will go to Kurnool and will launch, inaugurate, and dedicate several development projects.
- The total value of these projects is ₹13,430 crore.
- The projects span key areas like industry, energy transmission, roads, railways, defence production, and the oil and gas sector.
- These efforts are aimed at boosting infrastructure in the region.
- They also focus on driving economic development across the state.



The seventh NSG hub will be established in Ayodhya



- A new hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) was announced to be established in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 14 October.
- The decision was revealed during the 41st Raising Day of the NSG, marking an expansion of the elite counter-terror and counter-hijack force.
- The Ayodhya hub will be the seventh in India, joining existing hubs in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu.
- It was stated that the hub's commandos will remain on constant standby to respond to any sudden terrorist threats in the region.
- The Home Minister emphasised that upcoming reforms will enhance the operational capacity and training focus of the NSG.
- The headquarters will prioritise training both NSG and state police anti-terror units, ensuring high standards of fitness and preparedness.

- Over four decades, NSG teams have surveyed more than 770 critical locations, building a detailed data bank for counter-terror strategies.
- Additionally, Mr. Shah also inaugurated the Special Operations Training Centre (SOTC) at Manesar, Haryana, constructed at a cost of ₹141 crore.
- The new training centre will provide cutting-edge facilities for both NSG and state police units to sharpen anti-terror capabilities.
- A model operating procedure and 3D mapping of vital installations have been shared with all states to standardise anti-terror operations.

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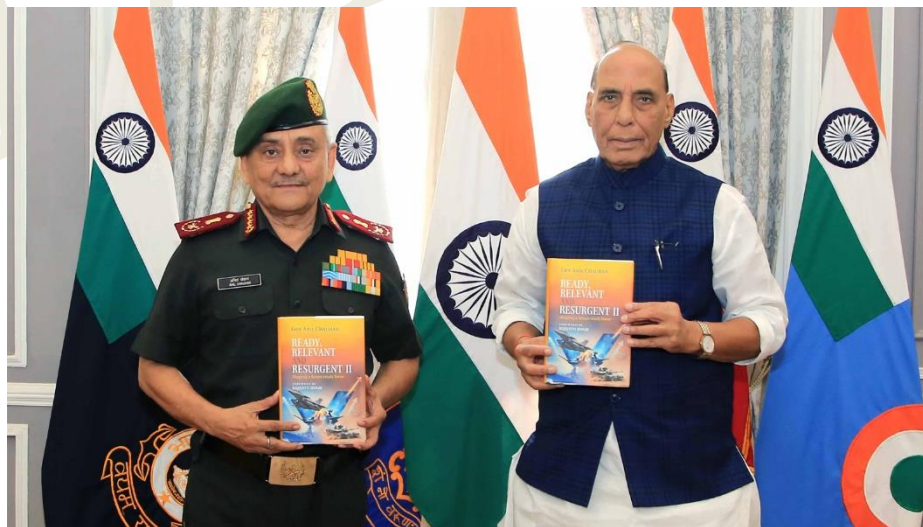
IMF Raises India's GDP Forecast to 6.6% Despite US Tariffs

- The IMF raised India's GDP forecast despite US tariffs.
- India's GDP growth rate was projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to increase faster than previously estimated, despite the impact of US tariffs.
- According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook report, India's growth for 2025–26 has been revised upward to 6.6% from 6.4%.
- The IMF, however, slightly lowered its estimates by 20 basis points to 6.2% for 2026-27.
- The upward revision was driven by strong momentum in the first quarter, which outweighed the tariff effects on imports from India.
- The IMF noted that global economic conditions have proven more stable than expected amid recent tariff shocks.
- However, it warned that President Donald Trump's threat of a renewed US-China trade war could significantly reduce output.
- The IMF now projects global real GDP growth at 3.2% for 2025, an increase from its July forecast of 3.0%.
- This revision follows an earlier April forecast of 2.8%, made after Trump imposed global reciprocal tariffs that triggered a tit-for-tat escalation with China.
- The IMF maintained its 2026 global growth estimate at 3.1%, indicating continued but cautious optimism.



The book 'Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II' released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

- On 14 October, a book titled Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a function held in New Delhi.
- Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan authored the book and provided a comprehensive vision for shaping a future-ready Armed Force.
- A detailed examination of the changing nature of warfare was presented through the book, with special attention to cyberspace, cognitive warfare, and space-enabled operations.
- The increasing significance of emerging technological frontiers for the Armed Forces was underscored through the author's analysis.
- The book emphasizes the importance of robust leadership and institutional strength to maintain military preparedness.
- It offers a reimagining of India's defence strategy, combining historical insights with modern technological advancements.
- The publication presents a vision that integrates tradition with innovation to build a reliable and resilient defence structure.



India Elected Unopposed to UN Human Rights Council for 2026–28 Term



- India elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2026-28.
- India was elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2026–28 term, marking the nation's seventh tenure on the Geneva-based rights body.
- The results of the election, held on 14 October, were announced by the UNHRC through a social media post confirming India's three-year term beginning on January 1, 2026.
- Gratitude was expressed by India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, to all delegations for their overwhelming support.
- The diplomat stated that India's election reflects its steadfast commitment to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms globally.

- The UN Human Rights Council comprises 47 member states elected by the UN General Assembly for three-year terms under equitable geographic distribution rules.
- The council's seats are divided among five regional groups 13 for African States, 13 for Asia-Pacific States, 6 for Eastern European States, 8 for Latin American and Caribbean States, and 7 for Western European and other States.
- India last served on the UNHRC in 2024 after two consecutive terms, taking a mandatory gap year before contesting for 2026–28 in compliance with council rules.
- Since the creation of the council in 2006, India has served six terms with brief breaks in 2011, 2018, and 2025.
- Since then, India has had six terms, 2006–2007, 2008–2010, 2012–2014, 2015–2017, 2019–2021 and 2022–2024.
- In the first election held in 2006, India secured the highest number of votes 173 out of 190 signifying its strong global reputation in human rights diplomacy.

Sonali Ghosh Becomes First Indian to Win Kenton R. Miller Award

- She is the Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- This award recognises innovation in the management of national parks and protected areas.
- She received the honour along with Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea from Ecuador.
- The award ceremony took place on October 10 in Abu Dhabi
- The Kenton R. Miller Award is presented by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
- The WCPA is part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The award was established in 2006. It is given every two years to individuals or teams who bring new and effective ideas to the field.
- These ideas may relate to governance, funding, science, community engagement, or policy.
- Dr. Ghosh was honoured for a conservation model that blends traditional knowledge with modern science.
- Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea was recognised for his contributions to sustainability.
- He is the founder and president of Grupo Futuro, a group of 19 businesses focused on sustainable development.

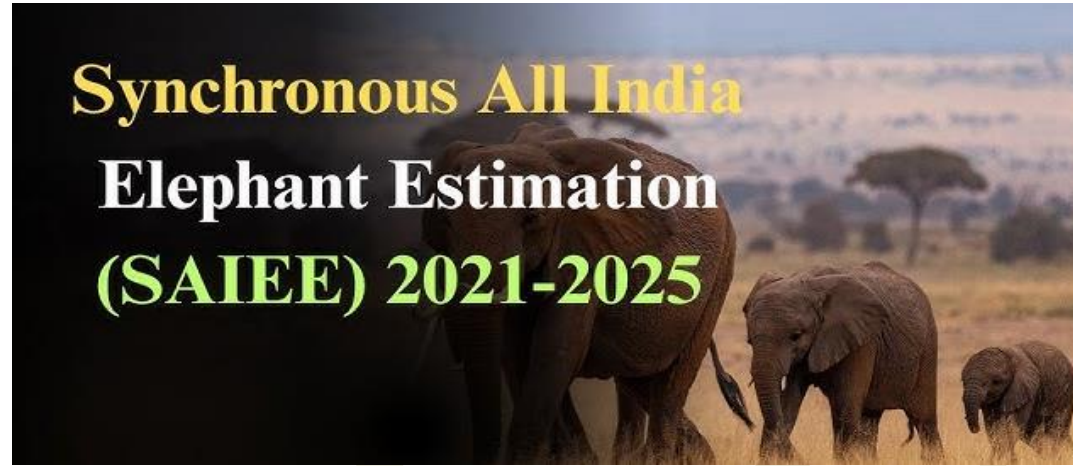


Joby Mathew Wins Bronze at 2025 Para Powerlifting World Championships

- India's Joby Mathew won the bronze medal at the 2025 Para Powerlifting World Championships.
- A bronze medal won by Indian para powerlifter Joby Mathew at the 2025 Para Powerlifting World Championships held in Cairo, Egypt.
- Competing in the 65 kg Legend (Masters) category, he recorded a total lift of 300 kg through two successful attempts of 148 kg and 152 kg.
- His achievement marked a new personal best, surpassing the 150 kg lift he achieved at the Beijing World Cup two months earlier.
- This win represented Mathew's second World Championship medal, following his bronze at Dubai in 2023.
- Thailand's Phongsakon Chumchai clinched gold with a lift of 162 kg, while Peru's Neil Gracia took silver with 161 kg.



All India Synchronised Elephant Estimation (AISEE) – 2025



- All India Synchronised Elephant Estimation 2025 is conducted under the supervision of the Dean of the Wildlife Institute of India to determine the total elephant population in the country.
- Estimated elephant population: 22,446, with a possible range between 18,255 and 26,645.
- The previous census in 2017 estimated 27,312 elephants.
- Regional distribution: Western Ghats (11,934), North-East and Brahmaputra Basin (6,599), Shivalik-Ganga plains (2,062), Central India and Eastern Ghats (1,891).
- State-wise figures: Karnataka (6,013), Assam (4,158), Kerala (3,138), Tamil Nadu (2,785), Odisha (1,792).
- Around 60 percent of Asia's elephants are found in India.
- **Elephant Counting Methods:** Both direct and indirect counting techniques are used for elephant estimation, with the “Dung Count Method” being a key approach that estimates elephant numbers based on their dung samples.
- National Heritage Animal (since 2010), protected under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 Schedule I, listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List, and under Appendix I of CITES.

- Project Elephant, launched in 1992 as a centrally sponsored scheme, aims to protect elephants, their habitats, and reduce human–elephant conflict.
- Major threats include habitat loss and fragmentation, human–elephant conflict, poaching for ivory, and accidents from rail or electric lines.
- Conservation measures focus on protecting elephant corridors, restoring habitats, and coordinating between states through Project Elephant.
- AISEE (**All India Synchronised Elephant Estimation**) **2025** is the first census organised directly under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, aligning with Asian Elephant Conservation goals.

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India's Wholesale Inflation Falls to 0.13% in September

- India's wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation eased to 13% in September, down from 0.52% in August, driven by increases in prices of manufactured food products, textiles, transport equipment, and other manufacturing items.
- The WPI food index recorded a negative inflation rate of 2%, while primary articles and fuel & power segments saw deflation of 3.32% and 2.58% respectively; inflation in manufactured products rose to 2.33% year-on-year.
- WPI measures wholesale-level price changes, differing from CPI which tracks consumer-level prices, and this easing aligns with retail inflation slipping to an eight-year low of 1.54% in September.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India:

- April 2025 -0.85%
- May 2025 - 0.39%
- June 2025 - (-)0.1%
- July 2025 - (-) 0.6%
- August 2025 -0.52%



**INDIA'S
WPI INFLATION
DIPS TO**

0.13%

**IN SEPTEMBER AS
FOOD PRICES
SOFTEN**

