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## India–Central Asia Security Dialogue: NSA Ajit Doval Leads Third Meeting in Kyrgyzstan

- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval took part in the third meeting of India-Central Asia Security Council officials.
- The meeting was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- The meeting brought together National Security Advisers and Secretaries of Security Councils.
- They met to address evolving regional and global security threats.
- Key areas of discussion included enhancing joint efforts to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, radicalisation, and extremism.
- Stability in Afghanistan was highlighted as essential for regional peace and cooperation.
- The officials committed to deeper engagement with Afghanistan.
- Strengthening transport and digital links between India and Central Asia emerged as a major priority.
- The group agreed to broaden their collaboration.
- This includes advanced sectors like artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, and space technology.
- NSA Doval, along with other regional security heads, met with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov during the visit.
- He also held separate bilateral talks with security counterparts from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan.
- These talks aimed to strengthen strategic ties.



## **Nagaland's Dzükou Valley Nominated for ₹250 Crore Eco-Tourism Development Project**

- Nagaland has nominated Dzükou Valley for a national project to develop 50 globally recognized tourist destinations.
- The initiative aims to create world-class tourism hubs across India.
- Nagaland's proposal was presented by Tourism and Higher Education Minister Temjen Imna Along.
- He introduced the plan during a two-day conference of state tourism ministers held in Udaipur.
- The event was organized by the Ministry of Tourism to identify top destinations for global-standard development.
- Nagaland's plan includes a proposed investment of ₹250 crore.
- The goal is to turn Dzükou Valley into a leading eco-tourism site with international appeal.
- The project features the construction of a sustainable luxury hotel.
- It also includes enhanced facilities for tourists while protecting the valley's natural landscape.
- Minister Temjen Imna Along described Dzükou Valley as a stunning and culturally significant natural treasure.



## **End of an Era: Kancha Sherpa, Member of Historic 1953 Everest Team, Dies at 92**

- Kancha Sherpa, the last surviving member of the historic 1953 Everest expedition, passed away at age 92 in Kathmandu.
- Kancha was part of the team led by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay that first conquered Mount Everest.
- His passing marks the end of a living connection to one of the most iconic moments in mountaineering history.
- Though he did not summit Everest, he climbed up to the South Summit.
- He played a crucial support role in the success of the mission.
- Kancha worked in mountaineering until 1973. After this, he shifted to guiding trekking groups.
- Hillary and Tenzing reached the top of Everest on May 29, 1953.
- His legacy remains a vital part of Nepal's and the world's mountaineering heritage.



## **India Appointed Co-Chair of UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific Regional Committee till 2028**

- India has been chosen as the Co-Chair of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP).
- This position was secured by India for a three-year term till 2028 during the 14th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP.
- The meeting was held from September 24 to 26 in Goyang-si, South Korea.
- The event was hosted by South Korea's National Geographic Information Institute.
- India's appointment reflects its increasing influence and leadership in global geospatial initiatives.
- UN-GGIM-AP is one of five regional bodies under the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.
- The committee represents the national geospatial organizations of 56 countries across Asia and the Pacific.
- It aims to enhance the value of geospatial data for economic, environmental, and social development through joint efforts and knowledge sharing.



## IIT Delhi and Indian Navy Sign MoU for Crew-Centric Warship Design

- An MoU signed between IIT Delhi and the Indian Navy for crew-centric warship design.
- On 16 October, a Memorandum of Understanding signed between IIT Delhi and the Directorate of Naval Architecture (DNA) of the Indian Navy.
- The MoU was signed to collaborate on the creation of a research and design centre to improve the Quality of Life (QoL) on Indian Navy ships through design interventions.
- The MoU was signed by Rear Admiral Arvind Rawal and IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee.
- Researchers from IIT Delhi will analyse safety, efficiency, and habitability aspects of current and upcoming ship projects.
- The institute will compare Indian Navy ship designs with international standards with respect to QoL parameters like ergonomics, comfort, efficiency, safety, and user experience.
- The partnership will identify improvement areas and propose design interventions to enhance living conditions onboard.
- Both institutions will work together to make Indian warships superior in crew comfort, efficiency, and habitability.
- The initiative introduces a process-driven scientific approach incorporating ergonomics, human factors, and design optimization.



## Three New Dr. Ambedkar Chairs to Be Established in Indian Universities

- The MoUs signed for the establishment of three new Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Indian universities.
- On 15 October, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for the establishment of three new Dr. Ambedkar Chairs at leading Indian universities.
- The MoU ceremony was organised by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- The new Chairs will be set up at Mumbai University, Jaipur National University, and GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology.
- The event, held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, was presided over by Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar.
- The Minister appreciated the Foundation's role in spreading Dr. Ambedkar's vision through academic and research initiatives.
- With these additions, the total number of operational Chairs under the scheme has reached twenty-eight.
- The Dr. Ambedkar Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to expanding this initiative across India to foster social transformation through knowledge.



## India Calls for Equitable Climate Action at G20 Environment Meet in South Africa

- Equitable climate action urged by India at the G20 environment meeting in South Africa.
- Equitable climate action has been called for by India at the G20 Environmental and Climate Sustainability Ministerial Meeting held in South Africa on 16 October.
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav emphasised that the G20 must act as a bridge between ambition and implementation.
- The minister said India supports ecosystem-based and participatory approaches in biodiversity conservation.
- He reaffirmed that India stands for integrating climate and development while upholding equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.
- The minister advocated for a whole-of-society approach and pro-planet lifestyle choices to achieve tangible outcomes.
- He referred to PM Narendra Modi's call for "going back to basics" to balance tradition with technological progress.



## **President Droupadi Murmu Attends National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan in New Delhi**

- The National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan attended by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on 17 October.
- The event organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the vision of Viksit Bharat as articulated by PM Narendra Modi.
- The conclave was held in conjunction with PMJANMAN and Dharti Aba Abhiyan initiatives.
- The focus of the conclave was Tribal Village Vision 2030: From Ideas to Implementation.
- The event aims to conceptualise the Tribal Village Vision 2030, finalising policy inputs, frameworks, and strategies based on over 50,000 Village Action Plans.
- The discussions will emphasise strengthening the participation of tribal communities in the development process.
- Five thematic groups deliberated on key areas such as education and skill development, health and nutrition, livelihood and entrepreneurship, infrastructure and governance and institutional strengthening.



## India to Host World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 for the First Time

- The World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 will be hosted by India for the first time.
- The hosting of the 2025 World Boxing Cup Finals has been awarded to India, bringing together the world's top boxers to compete for one of the sport's most prestigious trophies.
- The tournament will be held from November 14 to 21 at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex.
- The event will bring together the world's top male and female boxers across ten weight categories.
- India is ranked in the top five globally in this tournament and has won 17 medals in 2025, including four gold, six silver and seven bronze.
- Ajay Singh, president of the Boxing Federation of India, said hosting the finals reflects India's progress in performance and organisation.
- Indian boxers have already performed well at the 2025 Cup stages.
- In Brazil, Hitesh Gulia had won gold in the 70 kg category, while Abhinash Jamwal won silver and four others won bronze medals.



## **Rajasthan to Host 5th Khelo India University Games from November 24**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will take place in Rajasthan from November 24.
- The event will span 12 days and be held across seven cities.
- Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur have been chosen as the host cities.
- Over 5,000 student-athletes from universities across India are expected to participate.
- This national-level competition will feature events in 23 sports disciplines.
- Kho-Kho will be included as a non-medal demonstration sport.
- For the first time in KIUG history, beach volleyball, canoeing and kayaking, and cycling have been added.
- The sporting disciplines include athletics, archery, boxing, and more.
- Traditional and indigenous sports like mallakhamb and yogasana are also part of the games.
- The KIUG aims to serve as a launch pad for athletes who aspire to compete internationally.
- It promotes sporting excellence and supports the growth of sports in India.



## Census of India 2027: Key Highlights and First Steps

# Govt Approves Two-Phase Digital Census 2027 With Caste Enumeration

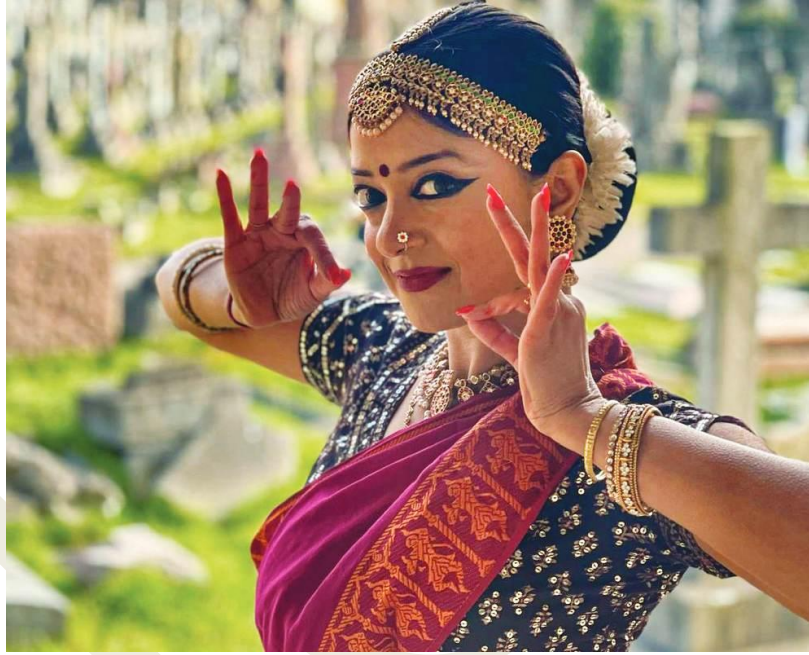


- **Census** is the official process of collecting, compiling, and analyzing information about every individual and household in the country including occupation, religion, language, literacy, etc.
- It is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**.
- The Census is carried out **once every 10 years (Decennial Census)**.
- The subject of “Census” is included in the **Union List** of the **Seventh Schedule** of the Indian Constitution (Article 246).
- The Census is conducted by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**.
- This office functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, Government of India.
- The Census is conducted in **two major phases**:
  - (1) **House listing & Housing Census**
  - (2) **Population Enumeration**
- The **first phase** (House listing & Housing Census) collects data about buildings, houses, and their uses whether residential, business, or institutional.

- The **second phase** (Population Enumeration) records demographic details age, gender, religion, language, education, occupation, caste (SC/ST), etc.
- The upcoming **2027 Census** will include **Sample House Listing** and **Housing Census** expected between **October 10 and November 30, 2026**.
- The **2021 Census** was postponed due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, and the next Census is now scheduled for **2027**.
- Census data is crucial for **policy-making, welfare program planning, and administrative decision-making**.

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## Arunima Kumar Receives 'Honorary BEM' for Promoting Kuchipudi Globally



- King **Charles III** of the United Kingdom has conferred the '**Honorary British Empire Medal (BEM)**' on Indian classical dancer **Arunima Kumar**.
- She received this honour for popularising **Indian classical dance**, especially **Kuchipudi**, across the world.
- The award was presented to her at the **Diocese of London** event held in **London**.
- **Kuchipudi** is one of the **eight classical dance forms** of India, recognised by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi**.
- It originated in the **Kuchipudi village** of **Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh**, and was revived in the **17th century** by **Siddhendra Yogi**, who depicted **Ramayana** stories through dance-drama.
- The dance form includes **three main elements**:
- **Nritta (Pure Dance)**: rhythmic movements

- **Nritya (Expression):** emotional portrayal
- **Natya (Drama):** storytelling performance
- It embodies **two styles**
- **Lasya:** graceful and delicate form
- **Tandava:** vigorous and powerful form
- A unique feature of Kuchipudi is that the dancer performs on a **brass plate**, demonstrating balance and rhythm blending **music, dance, and drama** seamlessly.
- The **British Honours System** is a merit-based recognition given by the **United Kingdom** to individuals for their contributions to society, arts, science, or community service.
- The **British Empire Medal (BEM)** honours those who render valuable, “hands-on” service.
- The **Honorary BEM** is awarded to **non-British citizens** for distinguished contributions.
- Through **Cultural Diplomacy**, nations strengthen relationships via art, culture, and shared values. Indian artists abroad act as a “**Living Bridge**,” promoting India’s cultural heritage worldwide.

## Hindustan Shipyard Limited Achieves Mini Ratna Status

- **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** has been **conferred Mini Ratna status**, recognising its financial revival, operational excellence, and growing contribution to India's maritime and defence sectors.
- Established in 1941, HSL has been central to India's shipbuilding capabilities. It faced prolonged financial difficulties from the 1980s, and even after being transferred to the Ministry of Defence in 2010, its net worth remained negative.
- Post-2015, HSL undertook targeted reforms in financial management, productivity, and technological modernisation, resulting in a sustained turnaround and eventual recognition as a Mini Ratna company.
- Achieving Mini-Ratna status will grant HSL enhanced financial autonomy, allowing it to make investments up to Rs 500 crore or an amount equal to its net worth, whichever is lower.



## **Universal Sampo Partners with Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank to Expand Insurance Access Across Rural Andhra Pradesh**

- **Universal Sampo General Insurance Company** has partnered with **Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank (APGB)** to **provide a wide range of general insurance products** across all 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh, focusing on rural and semi-urban areas.
- APGB, with its strong network of 1,351 branches, supports agriculture, MSMEs, self-help groups (SHGs), small and marginal farmers, and promotes financial inclusion through priority sector lending.
- The collaboration aims to offer customised insurance solutions under the State Insurance Plan, covering crop loss, property damage, and health emergencies, thereby enhancing affordable insurance access and delivering integrated financial and insurance services to the rural population.

