

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

31st December 2024

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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the ambitious Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission yesterday along with 24 experiments packed in with the launch vehicle. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle with the two, 220 kilogram each, satellites lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in a text-book launch. The two spacecraft -SDX01 (the Chaser) and SDX02 (the Target) will now be directed towards achieving space docking in the next 10 days likely on January 7. SpaDeX aims to demonstrate advanced in-space docking technology, a crucial capability for future missions, including lunar expeditions and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. The SpaDeX mission represents a critical step in advancing India's capabilities in orbital docking. Successful completion of this mission will enhance ISRO's ability to conduct complex operations in space and lay the groundwork for future interplanetary missions.

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The Ministry of Defence signed two contracts, worth around 2,867 crore rupees, for the construction of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Plug for the DRDO-AIP system and its integration onboard Indian submarines, and the integration of the Electronic Heavy Weight Torpedo (EHWT) onboard the Kalvari-class submarines. Both contracts were signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi. The Ministry highlighted that AIP technology is being indigenously developed by DRDO. The project pertaining to the construction of the AIP Plug and its integration will enhance the endurance of conventional submarines and significantly contribute towards the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman yesterday chaired the sixth Pre-Budget Consultation with experts and representatives from the health and education sectors in connection with the upcoming Union Budget 2025-26 in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the Finance Secretary, Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs, Chief Economic Adviser of the Government,

and senior officials of the Ministry of Health and the Department of School Education. Ms. Sitharaman also chaired the Pre-Budget Consultation meeting with industry representatives. The Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 is expected to be presented in Parliament on 1st February next year. This will mark Finance Minister Sitharaman's eighth consecutive Budget presentation.

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As the clock ticks down towards midnight, Nagaland is ready to welcome 2025 with open hearts, a sense of unity, and hopes for a prosperous new year. The entire state is abuzz with excitement, as communities of all ages will come together to ring in the new year. Different denominations are holding fasting or prayer events, seeking divine guidance and blessing for the year ahead. Our Dimapur Correspondent brings a report on how the excitement is palpable, as many local residents are busy planning gatherings to welcome the new year

In Dimapur, the vibrant commercial hub is alive with energy as the new year approaches. The streets are filled with bustling crowds, shopping for last-minute gifts and festive essentials, while the warm glow of lights illuminates the city. As people make final preparations for their celebrations, there's a shared sense of excitement in the air, as everyone eagerly awaits the arrival of a fresh start. Fireworks light up the evening skies, adding to the festive atmosphere, while families and friends gather to reflect on the past year and look forward to new beginnings. Let's hear from a local resident about her preparations.

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Income Tax Department has rejected the media reports in which it was stated that Digi Yatra data will be used to crack down on tax evaders. In a social media post, the Department clarified that there is no such move by it as on date. The Digi Yatra is the facial recognition technology which is used for contactless and seamless movement of passengers at different airport checkpoints.

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