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2nd DEC 2025 DESCRIPTIVE

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HEADLINES

- ❖ India has been ranked third in the Asia Power Index 2025
- ❖ The three-day DGP/IGP conference inaugurated by Amit Shah in Raipur
- ❖ India ranks second in the world in global tea exports
- ❖ India–U.S. Sign ₹7,995-Crore MH-60R Helicopter Fleet Support Deal
- ❖ President Vladimir Putin to Visit India on December 4–5 for the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit
- ❖ Assam Passes the Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- ❖ 56th International Film Festival of India Concludes in Goa
- ❖ India's GDP grew by 8.2% in the Q2 of FY 2025–26
- ❖ Death anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule: 28 November
- ❖ Renowned Bharatanatyam legend Kumari Kamala passed away at the age of 91
- ❖ BHIM Introduces Full Delegation Feature in UPI Circle to Expand User Base

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India Unveils Indigenous Hansa-3 NG Trainer Aircraft: A Major Boost to the Aviation Ecosystem



- The indigenous Hansa-3 NG trainer aircraft has been unveiled by India.
- On 29 November, the production version of the indigenous Hansa-3 NG trainer aircraft was launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh CSIR–National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru.
- The development progress of the 19-seater SARAS Mk-2 aircraft was reviewed by the Minister during his visit.
- New aerospace facilities aimed at boosting India’s civil and defence aviation ecosystem were inaugurated at CSIR-NAL.
- The Hansa-3 NG, designed as India’s first all-composite two-seat trainer, has been created to meet the rising demand for pilot training.
- India is projected to need nearly 30,000 pilots over the next two decades.
- A ₹150-crore manufacturing facility is being set up in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, by industry partner Pioneer Clean Amps, with a capacity to produce up to 100 aircraft annually.

- The SARAS Mk-2, a light transport aircraft for civil and military use, is being developed with features such as a pressurised cabin and digital avionics.
- An Iron Bird facility for full-system integration and ground testing was inaugurated to support SARAS Mk-2 trials.
- A manufacturing unit for solar-powered High Altitude Platforms was launched, with the first full-scale flight planned for 2027.
- CSIR-NAL also partnered with Solar Defence & Aerospace Ltd. to develop a 150-kg loitering munition UAV powered by an indigenous Wankel engine.

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India & ADB Sign Loan Agreements Worth Over \$800 Million for Key Development Projects



- The loan agreements worth over \$800 million signed between India and ADB.
- Three loan agreements worth over 800 million US dollars have been signed by the Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
- The agreements were formalised by Deputy Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Saurabh Singh and ADB Country Director Mio Oka.
- A 500-million-dollar loan has been approved for the Maharashtra Power Distribution Enhancement Program for Agricultural Solarization.
- The programme aims to enhance distributed renewable energy generation and improve agricultural productivity.
- Over 190 million dollars will support the construction of an 8.62-km underground metro line in Indore with seven stations.
- The new metro line will connect congested parts of the city to the airport to ease mobility.
- A 110-million-dollar agreement has been approved for Gujarat's Skill Development Programme.
- The programme aims to equip the workforce with advanced, industry-aligned skills in high-growth sectors.
- Additionally, a \$1 million technical assistance grant was also signed to help implement the upcoming Sustainable Wetlands and Integrated Fisheries Transformation Project in Assam.

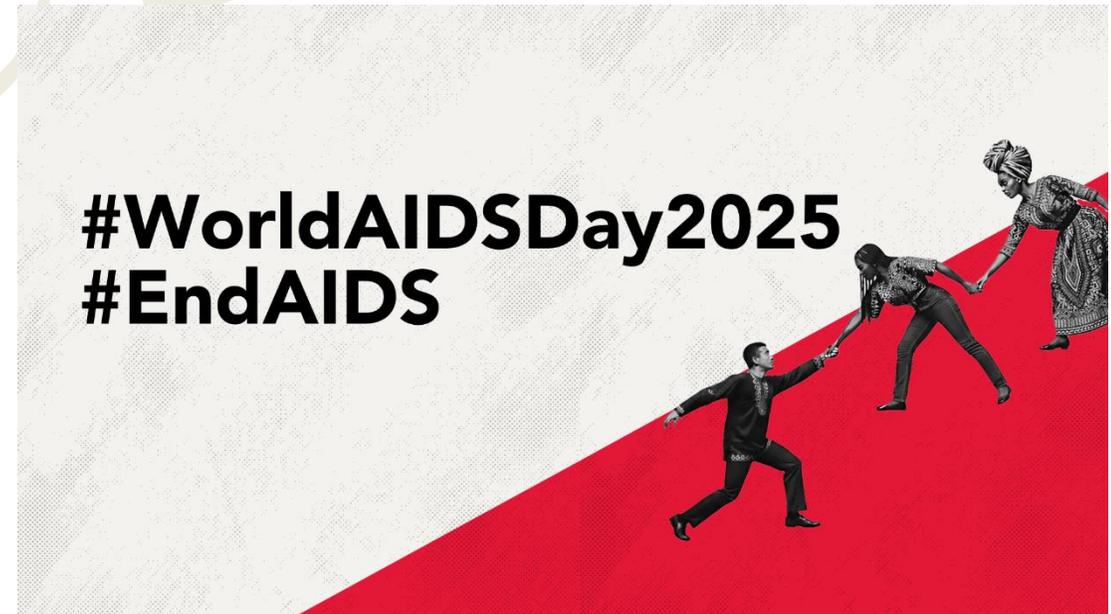
India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–29 tenure

- The announcement was made by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO through a social media post.
- India's re-election was described as a reflection of global confidence in its commitment to multilateralism.
- The message highlighted India's continued support for UNESCO's work in education, culture, science and communication.
- India's presence on the Board indicates increasing international support for its human-centric developmental vision.
- The Government stated that it will continue promoting cooperation among nations through UNESCO platforms.
- The country reaffirmed its commitment to contributing constructively to UNESCO's objectives in the coming years.



World AIDS Day 2025: 1 December

- Every year on 1 December, World AIDS Day is celebrated worldwide.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness and celebrate positive achievements in dealing with AIDS.
- The theme of World AIDS Day 2025 is ‘Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response’.
- In 1988, the first World AIDS Day was celebrated.
- The national-level observance of World AIDS Day 2025 led by Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda.
- India celebrates World AIDS Day every year through nationwide awareness campaigns, community outreach activities, and renewed government commitments led by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).
- India’s strong policy framework is reflected in landmark measures like the HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, which safeguards the rights of people living with HIV and prohibits discrimination.
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) targets the immune system and weakens people’s defence against many infections and some types of cancer.
- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is the most advanced stage of HIV infection.



Saras Aajeevika Food Festival 2025 inaugurated by Union Minister for Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan

- The Union Minister inaugurated the festival at Sunder Nursery in New Delhi on 1 December.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, was present on the occasion as the Guest of Honour.
- Saras Aajeevika Food Festival 2025 will run until the 9th of this month.
- As per the Ministry of Rural Development, the festival will be attended by nearly 300 Lakhpati Didis along with women from Self-Help Groups from 25 states.
- Ministry further said that a total of 62 stalls will be featured, with 50 preparing fresh dishes on-site and 12 stalls presenting natural and organic food items.
- In the food festival, states such as Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Gujarat are participating.
- Visitors will get the opportunity to taste more than 500 unique regional delicacies that reflect India's culinary diversity.
- Saras Aajeevika Food Festival is organised by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- It is aimed at supporting rural women entrepreneurs and celebrating Indian culture.



India has achieved 8th place in its first appearance at the World Skills Asia Competition 2025

- It competed with 29 participating nations and earned one silver medal, two bronze medals, and three Medallions for Excellence.
- These wins spanned both traditional and technology-oriented skill areas.
- Over 500 participants took part in the event. They competed across 44 distinct skill categories.
- The competition created opportunities for learning and collaboration.
- It also supported local education, economic activity, tourism, and international exchange.



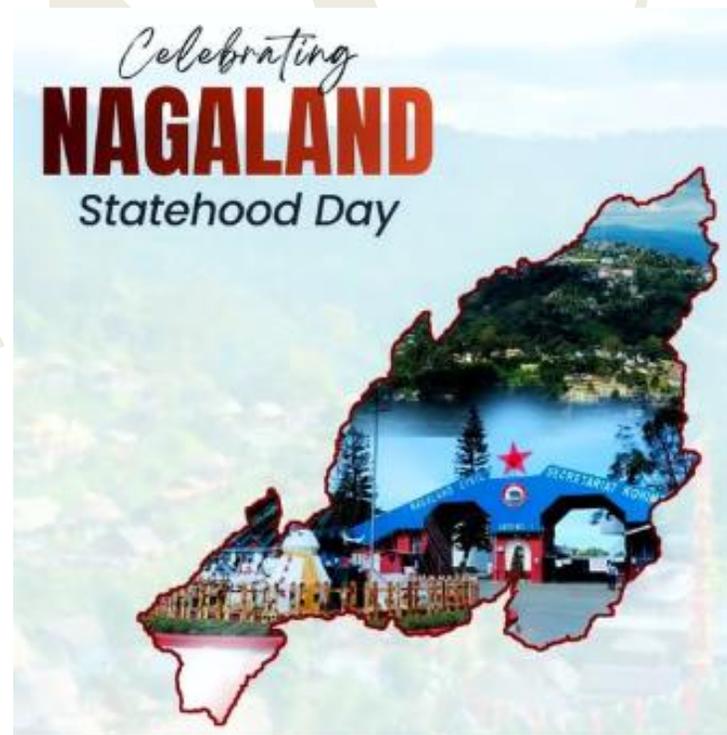
Indian Scientists Identify Key Gene Mutations Linked to Oral Cancer in Women

- Indian researchers have identified major gene mutations linked to oral cancer in women.
- These findings offer new understanding of a significant health issue in India.
- The study was led by scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, and the BRIC–National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani.
- Clinicians from Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research (SDUAHER) collaborated with them.
- The research focused on women who regularly chewed tobacco-infused betel quid.
- These habits are common in parts of southern and northeastern India.
- Oral cancer rates are high among women in these regions.
- The team used whole-exome sequencing to detect genetic changes and identified ten genes with notable mutations.
- CASP8 and TP53 showed the highest mutation levels.
- CASP8 appeared to act as a driver mutation specifically in women.
- The presence of both TP53 and CASP8 mutations was linked to recurrent cancer.



Nagaland is celebrating 63rd Statehood Day on 01 December

- Nagaland became India's 16th state in 1963. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla conveyed his greetings and reflected on the State's journey since 1 December 1963.
- A State-level event is being held at the Civil Secretariat Plaza in Kohima. The Chief Minister addressed the gathering.
- The Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition titled "Journey of Nagaland Down the Decades".
- This exhibition highlights Nagaland's evolution since its formation.
- The celebrations also include special presentations that showcase the State's rich diversity.
- Nagaland's capital is Kohima. It is one of the least populated states in India as per 2011 Census.
- Its largest city is Dimapur. Its Chief Minister is Neiphiu Rio and governor is Ajay Kumar Bhalla (additional charge).



Jay Shah has received the CNN-News18 Indian of the Year 2025 award

- Jay Shah received the award in the Outstanding Achievement category.
- The award recognises his major influence in shaping the future of global cricket.
- The award acknowledges his work in strengthening governance and supporting the rise of new cricketing nations.
- He has pushed for a strong expansion of women's cricket.
- Shah has helped modernise cricket's commercial ecosystem.
- Women's cricket was a key focus. The event followed the conclusion of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.
- India's women's team had recently won the World Cup.
- Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, coach Amol Muzumdar, and several players received the Indian of the Year Award in the Sports category.
- Reforms in women's cricket during Shah's tenure as BCCI honorary secretary from 2019 to 2024 included equal match fees and the launch of the Women's Premier League.



PM Modi Unveils 77-Foot Lord Rama Statue in Goa

- A 77-foot-tall bronze statue of Lord Rama has been unveiled by PM Modi at the Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Canacona, Goa
- This event marked the beginning of the Math's 550th-year celebrations, Sardha Panchashatamanotsava.
- The Ramayana Theme Park developed by the Math has also been inaugurated by PM Modi.
- He also released a special postal stamp and a commemorative coin.
- He inaugurated the Suvarna Teertha Mantapa located in front of the Krishna sanctum.
- He also dedicated the Kanaka Kavacha for the sacred Kanakana Kindi.
- He acknowledged the legacy of Jagadguru Madhwaachaarya, the founder of the Math.



NPCI's Banking Connect Launched to Enable Real-Time RBI Monitoring and Boost Bill Payments

- **Banking Connect**, a newly launched **net banking platform** by **NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL)**, will allow the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to monitor fund transfers in real time, improving oversight over sectors like cryptocurrency and gaming.
- NBBL aims to quadruple monthly bill payments from 260 million to 1 billion in four years, expanding accessibility to over 135 million households, or about half of India's households.
- The platform will minimise fraud by flagging suspicious transactions, although social engineering frauds, where customers are tricked into revealing sensitive information, remain a challenge.
- Banking Connect offers features like interoperability and a mobile-first approach, with participation from six banks and multiple payment aggregators, and efforts underway to onboard the top five banks by net banking volumes within a month.



C-DOT and IIT Roorkee Join Hands to Establish Centre of Excellence for Advanced Communication Technologies

- **C-DOT** signed an **MoU with IIT Roorkee** to collaborate on advancing research and innovation in cutting-edge communication technologies.
- Under this MoU, C-DOT will establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at IIT Roorkee to accelerate indigenous R&D and capacity building.
- The CoE will focus on joint research and prototype development in areas such as 5G/6G, RF-Sub-THz ICs, sensors, millimeter-wave beamforming antennas, V2X communication, and energy-efficient wireless technologies.

Recent MoU

- **BEL & Safran Sign JV to manufacture HAMMER Precision Weapon in India**
- **CSIR Signs Pact with Industrial Corridor Corporation to Boost Innovation and High-Tech R&D Ecosystems**
- **Engineers India Signs MoU with NMDC Energy to Boost Onshore Oil, Gas, and Green Energy Projects in Saudi Arabia**
- **UIDAI Partners with Behavioural Insights Ltd to Boost Biometric Updates for Children Aged 5 to 15 Years**
- **NHA Renews MoU with DHR and ICMR to Boost Evidence-Based Healthcare and Strengthen Ayushman Bharat Schemes**

