



# Daily Current Affairs

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026



**BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS**

**Morgan Stanley Projects India's Economy to Grow 7.6% in FY26, Surpassing Government's 7.4% Estimate**

- **Morgan Stanley** projected India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.6% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** for **FY26**, which is **20 basis points** higher than the **NSO's** latest estimate of **7.4%**.
- India's GDP is projected to **slow down to 6.9% in H2 (July-September) of FY26** compared to **8% in H1 (April-June) of FY26**, which is below the firm's previous estimate of **7.3%**.
- For **FY27**, India's GDP is expected to expand at **6.5% Y-o-Y**.
- **Nominal GDP growth** for India is projected at **8% Y-o-Y for FY26**, which is lower than **9.7% in FY25**.
- **Fiscal and monetary policy support**, enhanced **purchasing power**, and a positive **labour market outlook** are expected to support broader **consumption recovery**.
- Widespread pickup in **Capital Expenditure (Capex)** due to rising **investor confidence** is expected to boost **private investment**.
- **Domestic demand** is expected to drive growth, despite continued **tariff pressures** and **global uncertainty**.



**PhonePe Payment Gateway Rolls Out 'Bolt' for Visa and Mastercard with Device Tokenization**

- **PhonePe Payment Gateway (PhonePe PG)** has launched **'PhonePe PG Bolt'** for **Visa and Mastercard** credit and debit card transactions.
- The solution uses **device tokenization** to provide a secure and efficient **in-app checkout experience** for PhonePe platform users and merchant partners.
- It enables a **one-click payment experience** while keeping users within the **merchant's app**, eliminating **redirections** to external pages.
- Users can **tokenize** their Mastercard and Visa cards **once on the PhonePe app**, allowing them to use saved cards across any merchant integrated with PhonePe PG **without re-tokenization**.
- By replacing sensitive card details with **secure tokens**, the system removes the requirement for **CVV entry** during subsequent transactions on the **same device**, simplifying the payment journey.
- Utilizing **PhonePe's native SDK**, merchants can achieve **higher transaction success rates** and **faster checkout speeds** due to the elimination of manual card entry and reduced **technical hand-offs** between payment entities.



- The solution provides merchants with a **customizable interface** that integrates directly into their existing app flow, maintaining **brand consistency** and reducing **transaction drop-offs**.

#### About PhonePe:

- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Founded: 2015
- CEO: Sameer Nigam

#### PayG Gets Reserve Bank of India Nod to Operate as Payment Aggregator-Physical and Cross-Border

- **PayG**, one of India's most-trusted payment gateway service providers, has received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)** and **Cross-Border (PA-CB)**.
- With this approval, **PayG** now holds the **full suite of PA licenses**, enabling it to facilitate **digital transactions** across **online, offline, and global use cases** under the **RBI regulatory framework**.
- Through this license, **PayG** can support a **comprehensive range of payment use cases** via a **unified platform**, including **online payments, offline in-store transactions** through **POS and QR codes**, and **cross-border payments** for international customers and global merchants.
- The **expanded authorization** for merchants provides a **single platform** to handle **online, offline, and cross-border payments** in a **secure and transparent manner**.
- **PayG** was founded in **2021** (with operations since 2020) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, develops **payment infrastructure** for Indian businesses, and received **RBI in-principle approval in 2025**, simplifying **domestic and cross-border transactions**.



#### Choice Wealth to Launch Digital Investment Platform for India Post Payments Bank

- **Choice Wealth Private Limited**, a subsidiary of **Choice International Limited**, received a contract from **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** under the **Department of Posts (DoP)**, Ministry of Communications, to launch a comprehensive **digital investment platform**.
- The platform enables **IPPB customers** nationwide to access **formal financial investment services** seamlessly.
- The digital investment platform offers **online Mutual Fund (MF) aggregation, Robo-Advisory (RA)**, and other **digital investment solutions** through **mobile applications, web platforms, and micro-ATMs (mATM)**.
- The objective is to **simplify investing** and promote **financial inclusion**, targeting **first-time and underserved investors** in **semi-urban and rural areas**.
- The platform ensures **secure, technology-driven operations** while adhering to **regulatory and data protection standards**.



## NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

### Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary Renamed as Kerala's First Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary

- **Kerala Government** officially renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** in Kannur as **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**.
- Becomes **Kerala's 1st dedicated Butterfly Sanctuary**.
- Decision taken based on recommendation of **State Board for Wildlife** due to **rich butterfly diversity** and suitable climate and forest ecosystem.
- Sanctuary supports **rare and endemic butterfly species**, making it an ideal biodiversity conservation zone.
- New status aims to promote **insect conservation, habitat protection, research, eco-tourism, and public awareness**.
- Government to develop a **Butterfly Village** linking **Kelakam, Kanichar, Aralam, and Muzhakunnu panchayats** with community participation.
- Originally declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1984** through Kerala Gazette.
- Part of **Western Ghats**, recognised as a **UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site**, holding high ecological significance.
- Supports protection of **forest ecosystems of North Kerala** and strengthens sustainable biodiversity conservation efforts.



The Kerala government has officially renamed the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, making it the first butterfly sanctuary in the state.

### About Kerala:

- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Parks: Eravikulam National Park, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

### National Highways Authority of India Sets 4 Guinness World Records on Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** created **4 Guinness World Records** during the construction of the **Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G)**.
- Records achieved in **Andhra Pradesh near Puttaparthi** in **January 2026**.
- **First 2 Records (January 6, 2026):**
  - **Longest continuous laying of Bituminous Concrete: 9.63 km**, 3-lane wide stretch within **24 hours**.
  - **Highest quantity of Bituminous Concrete laid in 24 hours: 10,655 metric tonnes**.



The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully created four Guinness World Records on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor of NH-544G. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month, NHAI made two Guinness World Records near Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **Next 2 Records:**
  - **Continuous laying of 57,500 metric tonnes** of Bituminous Concrete.
  - **Continuous paving of a 3-lane wide, 52 km long stretch.**
- These records highlight **India's global leadership in road construction, engineering excellence, high mechanisation, and round-the-clock execution capability.**
- The **economic corridor length: 343 km, six-lane, access-controlled highway.**
- Aims to ensure **safe, high-speed, and scenic travel, reduced travel time, better logistics efficiency, and economic integration of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh** with surrounding regions.
- Supports **industrial growth, regional development, and trade enhancement.**
- **NHAI** functions under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, responsible for **development, maintenance and management of National Highways.**
- NHAI is increasingly focusing on **expressways, economic corridors, access-controlled highways, and modern construction technologies** to boost India's infrastructure development.

### Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches PARAM SHAKTI Supercomputing Facility at IIT Madras

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched '**PARAM SHAKTI**' supercomputing facility at **IIT Madras.**
- Inaugurated by **Shri S. Krishnan**, Secretary, MeitY.
- Facility hosts **PARAM RUDRA**, an **indigenously developed supercomputer** by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).**
- **Peak Performance: 3.1 Petaflops**, capable of performing **3.1 quadrillion calculations per second.**
- System is **100% Made in India**, runs on **open-source AlmaLinux** with **C-DAC system software.**
- Equipped with:
  - **Uninterrupted power supply**
  - **Advanced cooling systems**
  - **Full data centre infrastructure**
- Supports research in key fields:
  - **Aerospace engineering**
  - **Materials science**
  - **Climate & weather modelling**
  - **Combustion studies**
  - **Molecular science**
  - **Nuclear research**
  - **Drug discovery**



MUMBAI: When S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, inaugurated the PARAM SHAKTI supercomputing facility at IIT Madras earlier this month, it marked more than the launch of a machine. It signalled a maturing phase in India's scientific infrastructure – one where scale, sovereignty and scientific ambition are beginning to converge.

- Enables **large-scale simulations**, reduces research time and cost.
- **IIT Madras** selected as host under **NSM** due to strong interdisciplinary research capacity.
- As per MeitY, **37 supercomputing systems** have already been installed across India under NSM; more to be added.
- Supports **IndiaAI Mission** by promoting **multiple computing architectures** and **multi-GPU platforms** to strengthen India's computing ecosystem.
- Government providing **dedicated funding for application-driven projects** to ensure effective utilisation of the facility.

### Keyi Panyor to Become India's First 'Bio-Happy District'

- Newly formed **Keyi Panyor district (Arunachal Pradesh)** will become **India's first Bio-Happy District**.
- Initiative implemented by **M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** in collaboration with **district administration**.
- Concept based on **Biohappiness**, introduced by **M. S. Swaminathan**, focusing on linking **biodiversity with human well-being**.
- Project will undertake:
  - **Livelihood assessment**
  - **Agro-biodiversity mapping**
  - **Ecological system evaluation**
- **Biohappiness** means well-being achieved through **conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**, improving **nutrition, public health, income, and livelihoods**.
- Focus on **traditional farming systems, indigenous knowledge, biodiversity-rich landscapes**.
- Arunachal Pradesh, located in **Eastern Himalayas**, is among **India's most ecologically diverse regions**, ideal for a **community-driven sustainable development model**.
- Learnings expected to support **policy frameworks for sustainable rural development** in tribal and ecologically sensitive regions.
- Initiative highlights link between **environmental health and public health**.
- Points stressed:
  - **Methane emissions from waste** are a major climate concern.
  - **Methane is short-lived but highly potent** greenhouse gas.
  - Reducing methane offers **immediate climate benefits**.
- MSSRF to collaborate with **IIT Madras** and **Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research** to study **health risks near landfill communities**.



General M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, speaking at Sustainability Design at Central University of Jammu (India)

The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation has begun work on a project on Biohappiness, a concept coined by its founder and late agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, in the newly formed Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh, Suman Swaminathan, Chairperson of the Foundation, said on Tuesday.

### About Arunachal Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu
- **Governor:** B. D. Mishra
- **Capital:** Itanagar

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **National Parks:** Namdapha National Park, Mouling National Park, Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary,
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Pakke Tiger Reserve, Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary, Dampa Tiger Reserve, Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary

## UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai (उदय)' to Strengthen Citizen-Centric Communication

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched a new Aadhaar mascot named '**Udai (उदय)**' to improve public communication.
- Udai acts as a **resident-facing communication companion** to simplify and humanise Aadhaar-related information.
- Mascot aims to bridge the gap between **technology and citizens** by explaining Aadhaar services in a **simple, engaging, and relatable** manner.
- Udai will help people understand:
  - **Aadhaar updates and corrections**
  - **Authentication and verification**
  - **Offline Aadhaar verification**
  - **Selective and secure sharing of Aadhaar**
  - **Responsible usage of Aadhaar**
  - **Adoption of Aadhaar-linked technologies**
- Mascot will particularly benefit **first-time users, senior citizens, and residents in remote areas**, ensuring inclusive communication.
- UIDAI organised **national-level competitions on the MyGov platform** to design and name the mascot.
- Competition received **875 entries** from **students, professionals, designers, and creative participants** across India.
- Selection followed a **transparent multi-tier evaluation process**.
- **Mascot Design Competition Winners:**
  - **1st Prize – Arun Gokul (Thrissur, Kerala)**
  - **2nd Prize – Idris Dawaiwala (Pune, Maharashtra)**
  - **3rd Prize – Krishna Sharma (Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh)**
- **Mascot Naming Competition Winners:**
  - **1st Prize – Riya Jain (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh)**
  - **2nd Prize – Idris Dawaiwala (Pune, Maharashtra)**
  - **3rd Prize – Maharaj Saran Chellapilla (Hyderabad, Telangana)**
- Mascot officially named '**Udai**', symbolising **growth, progress, and empowerment** linked to Aadhaar.
- Launched in **Thiruvananthapuram** by **Neelkanth Mishra, Chairman, UIDAI**, who also felicitated winners.



- **UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar** highlighted that public participation strengthens trust and acceptance of Aadhaar.
- Officials stated Udaa will act as a **companion and narrator** to help residents connect better with Aadhaar information.
- Important for exams under topics like **Digital Governance, Citizen-Centric Public Services, E-Governance Initiatives**, and **UIDAI/Aadhaar Developments**.

### 3rd International Conference on Indian Languages inaugurated by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan – Promotes Protection & Global Promotion of Indian Languages

- **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **3rd International Conference on Indian Languages** in New Delhi.
- Conference focused on **protection, study, preservation, and global promotion** of Indian languages with participation from **scholars, experts, and international delegates**.

"India's languages are not contradictory; rather, they contribute to one another." – Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan

The Third International Bharatiya Languages Conference – 2025 inaugurated in New Delhi

Photo: @shubhamgupta1988

The inauguration of the Third International Bharatiya Languages Conference – 2025 was held at the India Habitat 3 National Centre for the Arts, Research and Innovation, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan. The conference was organized by the Research Team Professor of Public, Social & Environmental Studies, University of Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by the Research Team Professor of Public, Social & Environmental Studies, University of Delhi.



- Vice-President stated that **language is the “conscience of civilisation”**, as it preserves **history, values, traditions, literature, science, and philosophy** across generations.
- Highlighted India’s **linguistic diversity** as a strength that promotes **unity, democracy, and cultural harmony**, not division.
- Mentioned increasing **use of mother tongues in Rajya Sabha**, reflecting **maturity of Indian democracy**.
- Recalled **President Droupadi Murmu** releasing the **Santhali translation of the Constitution**, calling it a **historic step** in language inclusion.
- Emphasised the importance of the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution** in recognising and protecting Indian languages.
- Stressed that **true national unity** is built on **respecting linguistic differences**, strengthening democracy.
- Warned that many **indigenous languages globally are endangered**, requiring **research, documentation, and preservation efforts**.
- Highlighted initiatives like **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and **Gyan Bharatam Mission** to promote **multilingual education and language heritage preservation**.
- Supported use of **digital archives, AI-based translation tools, and multilingual platforms** to strengthen Indian languages in the **digital age**.

### Gujarat Launches ‘Asha Van’ Mobile Cancer Screening Unit

- **Gujarat** launched a **mobile cancer screening unit** named ‘**Asha Van**’ in **Gandhinagar**, inaugurated by **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**.

- The initiative aims at **early detection of cancer** by providing **doorstep screening services** especially in **rural, tribal and remote areas** where access to advanced healthcare is limited.
- **Asha Van** is a **fully equipped mobile medical unit**, functioning like a **hospital on wheels**, designed for **cancer screening and diagnosis** and capable of identifying symptoms of multiple serious diseases.
- The van is equipped with **EVA-Pro diagnostic technology, digital mammography machine and teleconsultation facilities**, enabling expert guidance and quick medical support.
- It can screen for major cancers including **lung, oral, blood, cervical, pancreatic, liver, breast and prostate cancers**, providing **on-the-spot testing and preliminary reports**.
- The initiative supports the national goal of “**Health and Wellness for All**” by removing barriers like **distance, cost and lack of awareness** in healthcare access.
- After launch, the van was handed over to the **Bhavnagar branch of the Indian Red Cross Society**, which will operate it across multiple locations.
- The unit can screen for **up to 10 types of cancer** and will be deployed widely to ensure **maximum population coverage**.
- The initiative is expected to **increase awareness, promote regular health check-ups, reduce late-stage cancer cases**, and significantly strengthen **rural healthcare services** in Gujarat.

Gandhinagar (Gujarat) [India], January 8 (ANI): Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the Cancer Screening Van - Asha Van, which will support early detection of cancer.

This Asha Van has been donated to the Bhavnagar branch of the Indian Red Cross Society by Jenburkt Pharmaceutical, according to a release.

The van is equipped with EVA-Pro diagnostics, a mammography unit, and expert tele-consultation facilities. Additionally, screening for diseases such as lung cancer, oral cancer, blood cancer, cervical cancer, pancreatic cancer, as well as liver cancer, breast and prostate cancer will be possible on-site through this van using ultra-modern instrumentation.

#### About Gujarat:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **National Parks:** Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Marine National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Malaysia Temporarily Bans Elon Musk's xAI Chatbot Grok Over Sexualised and Non-Consensual Images

- **Malaysia** has temporarily **blocked access to Grok**, the **generative AI chatbot** developed by **Elon Musk-led xAI**, following allegations that it enabled the **creation and circulation of sexualised and non-consensual images**.
- The move follows **Indonesia**, which became the **first country** to restrict **Grok**, signalling growing **regulatory scrutiny of generative AI tools** in **Southeast Asia**.
- The **Malaysian Communications and Multimedia**



Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

**Commission (MCMC)** cited **repeated misuse** of **Grok** to generate **obscene, sexually explicit, and grossly offensive content**, including images involving **women and minors**, raising serious **legal and ethical concerns**.

- In response, **xAI** announced it would **limit image generation and editing features** on **Grok** to **paying subscribers** to address lapses that allowed **non-consensual sexualised images**.
- These measures were **insufficient**, as they relied heavily on **user reporting mechanisms** and did not mitigate **inherent design risks** of **AI-generated imagery**.
- The **MCMC** issued notices earlier demanding **stronger technical controls** and **proactive moderation systems**, and stated that **Grok access** will remain **restricted** until **effective safeguards** are implemented.
- **Malaysia**, a **Muslim-majority country**, has intensified scrutiny of **digital platforms**, citing a rise in **harmful online content**, and is considering **social media restrictions** for users **under 16**.
- The **Grok episode** highlights the growing challenge governments face in **balancing innovation with safeguards** as **generative AI tools** expand rapidly without **uniform global regulation**.

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

#### Indian Army Officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar Wins UN Secretary-General's Award 2025

- **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar (Indian Army)** received the **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 (Gender Category)**.
- Awarded for her project "**Equal Partners, Lasting Peace**" under the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.
- Recognised by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** for promoting **gender-inclusive and gender-responsive peacekeeping**.
- Her project was selected through **UN-wide voting**, competing with nominations from **multiple UN peacekeeping missions worldwide**.
- Led the **Indian Engagement Team**, ensuring **greater deployment and integration of women peacekeepers**.
- Enhanced **community trust**, strengthened **local cooperation**, and improved **women's participation** in conflict-affected regions.
- Initiative supported **over 5,000 women**, helping create safer environments and improving access to **remote and sensitive areas**.
- Demonstrates India's strong contribution to **global peacekeeping, women empowerment**, and **inclusive leadership** in UN missions.



Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, an Indian Army officer from Bengaluru currently serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), has been awarded the prestigious UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her contribution to gender-inclusive peacekeeping.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Justice Soumen Sen Takes Oath as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court

- **Justice Soumen Sen** was sworn in as the **40th Chief Justice (CJ)** of the **Kerala High Court (HC)** at **Raj Bhavan**, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The **oath of office** was administered by Kerala Governor **Rajendra Arlekar** in the presence of Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** and Speaker **A.N. Shamsheer**.
- He succeeded **Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar**, who retired on **9 January 2026**.
- Justice Soumen Sen has handled **civil, constitutional, banking, and arbitration cases** during his legal career.
- He has represented major institutions such as the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- He practised for nearly **20 years** at the **Calcutta High Court**, Kolkata (West Bengal) on both **original and appellate sides**.
- In **2011**, he was appointed as a **Judge** of the **Calcutta High Court**.
- He also served as **Acting Chief Justice** of the **Calcutta High Court** in **September 2025**.
- Before assuming charge in Kerala, he served as the **Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court** from **October 2025**.



## DEFENCE NEWS

### Indian Army Orders Rs.168 Crore Solar-Powered UAV from NewSpace Research & Technologies

- The **Indian Army (IA)** has placed a **Rs.168 crore** order with **NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT)** for the **Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS)**, a fully electric, **solar-powered UAV** designed for **long-endurance surveillance missions**.
- For the first time, the IA will deploy **solar-powered UAVs**, in addition to the **battery-powered** and **tethered drones** currently in use.
- The **MAPSS UAV** has been **indigenously developed** under the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** programme.
- It is designed to provide **long-endurance Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)** coverage, **Electronic Intelligence (ELINT)**, and **communications relay support**, particularly for **border monitoring**.
- These solar-powered UAVs feature a **light airframe**, **solar recharging** for extended flights, and a **modular payload architecture**.
- The UAV is equipped with **advanced mission autonomy** for operations in **GNSS-denied zones**, reducing logistical demands and enabling **continuous border patrolling, artillery spotting**, and **network extension** in communication-denied areas.



- Its **quiet electric propulsion** and **low thermal signature** help minimize **enemy detection risks**.

### Indian Army Introduces 'DIME' Digital Platform to Transform Logistics Management

- The **Indian Army (IA)** launched '**Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME)**', a **digital platform** aimed at transforming **logistics management** and enabling faster, **data-driven decisions** for commanders.
- **DIME** has been jointly developed by **IA** and **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- The platform provides **real-time visibility** and efficient management of **spares and equipment** by integrating **inventory control, maintenance planning, and demand forecasting** into a single digital system.
- Key features include **end-to-end logistics visibility** from frontline to **HQ**, **integrated dashboards** for rapid stock assessment, **alerts**, and **predictive analytics** to identify anomalies and anticipate requirements.
- The platform reduces around **70% of manual paperwork** and **streamlines workflows**, making **supply operations** approximately **one-third faster**.



### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Full-Scale Actively Cooled Scramjet Engine in Extended Ground Trial

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D)**, **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, successfully conducted a **long-duration ground test** of a **full-scale, actively cooled scramjet engine/combustor**, marking a major milestone in **India's Hypersonic Cruise/Missile Programme**.
- The test was conducted at the **Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) facility** of **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.



### Key Highlights :

- The **scramjet combustor** operated continuously for **over 12 minutes**, validating **sustained supersonic combustion** and the robustness of **hypersonic test infrastructure**.
- The **scramjet (Supersonic Combustion Ramjet)** engine is an **air-breathing propulsion system** that enables **hypersonic flight beyond Mach 5** using **supersonic combustion** and **active cooling technology**.

- The combustor and test facility were **indigenously designed and developed** by **DRDL**, with support from Indian industry and academia, highlighting **self-reliance** in defence technology.
- This technology enables **hypersonic cruise missiles** capable of speeds exceeding **6,100 km/h**, with **high manoeuvrability** and **low-altitude flight**, making interception **extremely difficult**.
- The successful test validated **advanced combustor design** and **state-of-the-art hypersonic testing infrastructure**, strengthening India's **strategic deterrence capabilities**.
- Earlier progressive scramjet tests included a **120-second ground test** in **January 2025** and a **1,000-second endurance test** in **May 2025**, gradually scaling up scramjet endurance and reliability.

### About DRDO :

- Established : **1958**
- Headquarters : **New Delhi, Delhi.**
- Chairman of DRDO : **Samir V. Kamat**

### Indian Space Research Organisation to Kick Off 2026 Launches with PSLV-C62 Carrying EOS-N1 and 14 Co-Passenger Satellites

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will begin its **2026 launch calendar** on **12 January** with the **PSLV-C62 mission** to deploy the **EOS-N1 Earth Observation Satellite (Anvesha)** along with **14 other co-passenger satellites**.
- The main satellite **EOS-N1 (Anvesha)** has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and is aimed at providing **hyperspectral Earth observation, surveillance, and terrain classification capabilities**.
- The mission is being conducted by **NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL)**, the **commercial arm of ISRO**, and the launch is scheduled from the **First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- The satellites will be injected into a **Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO)** about **17 minutes** after lift-off, while the total **mission duration** will be over **two hours**.
- The mission will also test the **KID (Kestrel Initial Technology Demonstrator)** capsule from a **Spanish startup (Orbital Paradigm)**, which will **re-enter the Earth's atmosphere** and splash down in the **South Pacific Ocean**.
- The **PSLV** has so far completed **63 flights**, including **Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), Aditya-L1, and Astrosat** missions, and set a world record in 2017 by launching **104 satellites** in a single mission.
- The **PSLV-C62 mission** marks the **105th launch from Sriharikota**, the **64th PSLV mission**, and the **5th flight** of the **PSLV-DL variant**.
- The **foreign satellites** on board include **THEOS-2 (Thailand & UK), MunAI (Nepal), KID (Spain), RIDE! Capsule (France), and EduSat & JISAT (Brazil)**.



- The **Indian satellites** on the mission include **GUSAT, DSUSAT, MOI-1, LACHIT, Thybolt-3, Sanskar-1**, and **Ayu-Sat**, developed by **Dhruva Space, TakeMe2Space, Don Bosco University, Laxman Gyanpith**, and **OrbitAid India**.
- **Anvesha** is a **hyperspectral mini-satellite** weighing **100–150 kg**, operating in a **low Earth orbit** of around **600 km**, designed for sharper **surveillance** and **terrain classification** capabilities.
- The **PS4 fourth stage** of PSLV will be restarted to **de-boost** and deploy the **KID capsule**, demonstrating a **controlled re-entry** into Earth's atmosphere.
- Earlier, on **24 December 2025**, ISRO successfully launched the **BlueBird Block-2** communication satellite for the United States' **AST SpaceMobile**, deployed from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, providing **high-speed cellular broadband** directly to smartphones globally.

### Google Expands Gemini AI Chatbot into Virtual Shopping Assistant with Walmart, Shopify, and Wayfair Partnerships

- **Google** is expanding **shopping features** in its **Gemini AI chatbot** by partnering with **Walmart, Shopify, Wayfair**, and other retailers, turning Gemini into a **virtual shopping assistant and merchant**.
- An **instant checkout feature** will allow users to **buy products directly** inside the Gemini chat without visiting a retailer's website.
- **Walmart customers** who link their accounts with Gemini will receive **personalised recommendations** based on **past purchases**, with items going directly into their **Walmart or Sam's Club** carts.
- The Gemini shopping feature will launch first in the **US**, with payments initially through **Google-linked cards**, followed later by **PayPal**.
- **Walmart** also announced that its **drone delivery network** in partnership with Alphabet's **Wing** will expand to **270 locations** by **2027** across the **US**.



### Google Launches Universal Commerce Protocol to Transform AI-Driven Digital Commerce

- **Google** has unveiled the **Universal Commerce Protocol (UCP)**, a new **open standard** designed to reshape **digital commerce** in the age of **artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- **UCP** helps retailers connect effectively with consumers who increasingly rely on **AI tools** for **product discovery, comparison, and purchasing decisions**.
- The protocol enables retailers to create and surface **relevant offers** directly within **Google campaign settings**, with **agentic AI** determining when and where an offer should be displayed based on **shopper intent** and **context**.



- **UCP** operates across the **full commerce lifecycle**, covering **discovery**, **purchase**, and **post-transaction support**, creating a **unified framework** for **AI-driven retail interactions**.
- As part of **UCP**, Google is introducing an **AI checkout capability** for **eligible product listings** in **AI Mode on Search** and within the **Gemini app**, allowing shoppers to complete purchases while **researching products**.
- Google is piloting “**Direct Offers**” under **Google Ads**, targeting consumers who use **AI for product discovery** and prioritize value, starting with **discounts** and later expanding to **bundles**, **free shipping**, and other **value-added attributes**.
- **UCP** complements existing frameworks such as **Agent2Agent (A2A)**, **Agent Payments Protocol (AP2)**, and **Model Context Protocol (MCP)**, strengthening the **agentic AI ecosystem**.
- **UCP** was co-developed with major retailers including **Shopify**, **Target**, and **Walmart**, and endorsed by ecosystem partners such as **American Express**, **Flipkart**, and **Mastercard**.
- Google is also rolling out **Business Agent on Search**, enabling shoppers to chat directly with **brands**; this feature functions like a **virtual sales associate**, answering **product queries** in a **brand’s voice** and helping drive **conversions**.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Scientists Discover Two New Slender-Armed Frog Species in Arunachal Pradesh

- Indian scientists from the **University of Delhi** discovered **two new species** of **slender-armed frogs** from remote mountain habitats of **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)**.
- The newly discovered species are **Soman’s Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium somani*)** and **Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium mechuka*)**.
- The research findings were published in the **USA-based peer-reviewed journal PeerJ**.
- The study was conducted over **three years** by the **University of Delhi** in collaboration with the **Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (USA)**.



### Key Highlights :

- The frogs belong to the **genus *Leptobrachium*** under the **family Megophryidae**, one of the most diverse frog families globally with **366 recognised species** across South and Southeast Asia.
- Out of **39 *Leptobrachium* species** worldwide, only **four species** were earlier recorded in **India**.
- The **Brahmaputra River** acts as a major **biogeographical barrier**, with the new species found **north of the river**, while other Indian species are confined to the southern region.
- **Soman’s Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium somani*)** was discovered at **Tiwarigaon** in **Lower Dibang Valley**, Arunachal Pradesh.

- The species is named in honour of late journalist and environmental reporter **E. Somanath** and measures about **55 mm** in length.
- It has a **greyish-brown body** with irregular light-grey markings, **silver-grey to light-blue eyes**, and inhabits **evergreen forests**, with males calling from stream banks.
- **Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium mechuka*)** was discovered near **Mechuka town** in **Shi Yomi district**, Arunachal Pradesh, close to the **India–China border**.
- It is named after **Mechuka town**, measures around **60 mm** in length, and has a **uniform brown body** with a **reddish tinge** and **silvery-white eyes**.
- The species inhabits **evergreen forests** and adjoining **grasslands**, highlighting Arunachal Pradesh's **rich amphibian biodiversity**.

### Daily CA One- Liner: January 13

- **Kerala Government** officially renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** in Kannur as **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** created **4 Guinness World Records** during the construction of the **Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor**
- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched '**PARAM SHAKTI**' supercomputing facility at **IIT Madras**
- Newly formed **Keyi Panyor district (Arunachal Pradesh)** will become **India's first Bio-Happy District**
- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched a new **Aadhaar mascot** named '**Udai (उदय)**' to improve public communication
- **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **3rd International Conference on Indian Languages** in **New Delhi**.
- **Gujarat** launched a **mobile cancer screening unit** named '**Asha Van**' in **Gandhinagar**, inaugurated by **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**
- **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar (Indian Army)** received the **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 (Gender Category)**.
- **Morgan Stanley** projected India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** at **7.6% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** for **FY26**, which is **20 basis points** higher than the **NSO's** latest estimate of **7.4%**.
- **PhonePe Payment Gateway (PhonePe PG)** has launched '**PhonePe PG Bolt**' for **Visa and Mastercard** credit and debit card transactions.
- **PayG**, one of India's most-trusted payment gateway service providers, has received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)** and **Cross-Border (PA-CB)**.
- **Choice Wealth Private Limited**, a subsidiary of **Choice International Limited**, received a contract from **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** under the **Department of Posts (DoP)**, Ministry of Communications, to launch a comprehensive **digital investment platform**.
- **Malaysia** has temporarily **blocked access to Grok**, the **generative AI chatbot** developed by **Elon Musk-led xAI**, following allegations that it enabled the **creation and circulation of sexualised and non-consensual images**.

Follow us: [Telegram](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Download Our Mobile App For CA Shorts \(Swipe-up News\)](#)

visit: [Guidely Optimum CA](#) , [Smart Quiz GA](#) , [Daily CA & CA Quiz](#) , [e-Magazine](#)

- **Justice Soumen Sen** was sworn in as the **40th Chief Justice (CJ)** of the **Kerala High Court (HC)** at **Raj Bhavan**, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The **Indian Army (IA)** has placed a **Rs.168 crore order** with **NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT)** for the **Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS)**, a fully electric, **solar-powered UAV** designed for **long-endurance surveillance missions**.
- The **Indian Army (IA)** launched '**Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME)**', a **digital platform** aimed at transforming **logistics management** and enabling faster, **data-driven decisions** for commanders.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under the **Department of Defence Research & Development (DDR&D)**, **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, successfully conducted a **long-duration ground test** of a **full-scale, actively cooled scramjet engine/combustor**, marking a major milestone in **India's Hypersonic Cruise/Missile Programme**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will begin its **2026 launch calendar** on **12 January** with the **PSLV-C62 mission** to deploy the **EOS-N1 Earth Observation Satellite (Anvesha)** along with **14 other co-passenger satellites**.
- **Google** is expanding **shopping features** in its **Gemini AI chatbot** by partnering with **Walmart, Shopify, Wayfair**, and other retailers, turning Gemini into a **virtual shopping assistant and merchant**.
- **Google** has unveiled the **Universal Commerce Protocol (UCP)**, a new **open standard** designed to reshape **digital commerce** in the age of **artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- Indian scientists from the **University of Delhi** discovered **two new species** of **slender-armed frogs** from remote mountain habitats of **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)**.