



# Daily Current Affairs

30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



## BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

### Reserve Bank of India May Postpone Mandatory Climate Risk Reporting for Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has put on hold plans to require **domestic banks** to disclose and manage **climate-related risks**.

#### Key Highlights :

- Globally, understanding **climate-related risks** and **green investments** is key to transitioning to a **low-carbon economy**, with countries like the **United Kingdom (UK)** and **Japan** making disclosures mandatory for financial institutions.
- **RBI's proposed climate disclosure norms**, under discussion with banks since **2022**, would have required regular disclosure of **climate-related risks** in **loan portfolios**, along with **mitigation strategies and targets**.
- **Draft rules** published in **2022** proposed **voluntary implementation** starting **FY2027 (April 1, 2027)**.
- **RBI** decided to delay final guidelines, citing that **climate disclosure** is not a priority and that implementation could be **costly and onerous** for corporates lacking **mandatory climate reporting**.
- Separately, **RBI** has proposed guidelines for **banks and regulated entities** to implement **resolution plans** during **natural calamities**.
- The **draft norms** would have required banks to calculate **gross emissions of borrowers**, disclose by **asset classes and industries**, and analyse the impact of **adverse climate events** on borrowers' **repayment ability**.
- Implementation could have led to **higher loan pricing** for **emission-heavy sectors** and borrowers in **climate-sensitive zones**.
- **India** ranks **ninth globally** in **climate vulnerability** according to the **Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index 2026**, which tracked **1995–2024** extreme weather events.
- During this period, **India** experienced **430 extreme weather events**, resulting in over **80,000 deaths** and **economic losses** of around **\$170 billion**, exposing lenders to **credit risks**.



#### Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandated banks and eligible **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to implement a **fully automated Complaint Management System (CMS)** with direct access for the **Internal Ombudsman (IO)** and **Deputy IO (DIO)**.

## NATIONAL & STATE

### New Solid Waste Management Rules Notified; To Come into Force from April 1, 2026

- The **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026** have been notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and will come into force from **1 April 2026**, replacing the 2016 rules.
- The rules are based on the principles of **Circular Economy**, **Extended Producer Responsibility** and the **Polluter Pays** principle to improve waste segregation and management.

New Solid Waste Management Rules Notified; To Come into Force from April 1, 2026

Four-Stream Segregation of Solid Waste at Source Made Mandatory; Clear Responsibilities Defined for Bulk Waste Generators

New Rules Provide for Environmental Compensation for Violations Based on Polluter Pays Principle

Online Tracking and Monitoring of Complete Solid Waste Management Process and Faster Land Allocation for Waste Processing under SWM Rules, 2026

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- Environmental compensation will be imposed for non-compliance such as operating without registration, false reporting, forged documents or improper waste management.
- The **Central Pollution Control Board** will issue guidelines, while **State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees** will levy environmental compensation.

#### Key Highlights:

- Segregation of waste at source into **four streams—wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste**—has been made mandatory.
- Wet waste like kitchen and food waste must be composted or processed through bio-methanation at nearby facilities.
- Dry waste such as plastic, paper, metal and glass must be sent to Material Recovery Facilities for sorting and recycling.
- Sanitary waste must be securely wrapped and stored separately, while special care waste must be handed over to authorised agencies or collection centres.
- Bulk Waste Generators are defined as entities with a floor area of **20,000 square metres** or more, water use of **40,000 litres per day** or more, or waste generation of **100 kg per day** or more.
- Bulk Waste Generators must ensure environmentally sound collection, transport and processing of the waste they generate and may be charged user fees by local bodies.
- The rules introduce Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility, making bulk generators **accountable** for their waste.
- Bulk Waste Generators must process wet waste on-site wherever possible or obtain an EBWGR certificate if on-site processing is not feasible.

#### How it works:

- A centralised online portal will track waste generation, collection, transport, processing, disposal and remediation of legacy waste.
- Registration, authorisation, reporting and audits of waste processing facilities will be conducted online through the **CPCB portal**.
- Local bodies are responsible for waste collection, segregation and transport in coordination with Material Recovery Facilities.
- Material Recovery Facilities are officially recognised as waste sorting centres and may act as collection points for other waste streams.
- Local bodies are encouraged to generate carbon credits and focus on waste management in peri-urban rural areas.
- Industries such as cement and waste-to-energy plants must increasingly replace solid fuel with **Refuse Derived Fuel** made from municipal waste.
- The use of Refuse Derived Fuel will increase from **5 per cent to 15 per cent over six years**.
- Landfilling is restricted only to inert, non-recyclable and non-energy recoverable waste.
- Higher landfill fees will be charged for disposal of unsegregated waste compared to segregated waste.
- Annual audits of landfills are mandatory and will be overseen by State Pollution Control Boards and District Collectors.
- All legacy waste dumpsites must be mapped, assessed and remediated through biomining and bioremediation in a time-bound manner.
- Special provisions are made for hilly areas and islands, including user fees on tourists and regulation of tourist inflow.
- Hotels and restaurants in such areas must process wet waste locally, and designated collection points will be set up for non-biodegradable waste.

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- Central and State-level committees will be formed to ensure effective implementation of the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026**.

### National Biodiversity Authority Disburses Rs 17 Lakh to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Under ABS Mechanism

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** is strengthening India's commitment to sustainable use of biological resources and fair benefit sharing under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework.
- The NBA has disbursed **₹17 lakh** to the Biodiversity Management Committee of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation through the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board.
- The payment is linked to the commercial use of **Bacillus genus soil micro-organisms** for developing probiotic products.
- The benefit-sharing mechanism ensures that part of the commercial profits is returned to local communities for development activities.
- The NBA has observed a growing role of micro-organisms in biotechnology-driven industrial innovation.
- The biotechnology sector has contributed around **₹10 crore** to the national ABS fund.
- Microbial resources are increasingly important in healthcare, agriculture and industrial applications.
- Maharashtra** is the **second-highest beneficiary State** in ABS disbursements after **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Excluding Red Sanders-related payments, **Maharashtra** has received the highest share of ABS funds.
- With the latest release, total ABS support to Maharashtra has reached nearly **₹8 crore**.
- More than **200 Biodiversity Management Committees** and **seven institutions** in Maharashtra have benefited.
- At the national level, cumulative ABS disbursements have crossed **₹144.37 crore**.
- This reflects effective implementation of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- The progress supports India's commitments under the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, especially Targets 13 and 19.
- It also aligns with **India's National Biodiversity Targets 13 and 19**, focusing on sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing.
- The ABS framework strengthens local institutions, supports livelihoods and promotes community empowerment.
- These outcomes contribute to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- Overall, the initiative highlights India's leadership in implementing the **Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol** while linking conservation with inclusive development.

National Biodiversity Authority Disburses Rs 17 Lakh to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Under ABS Mechanism

Posted On: 29 JAN 2026 9:10AM by PIB Delhi

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) continues to advance India's commitment to the sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. In furtherance of its mandate under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, the NBA has disbursed Rs 17 lakh to the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Maharashtra, through the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board.

The disbursement stems from the successful commercial utilisation of soil micro-organisms belonging to the Bacillus genus. These micro-organisms have been utilised for the development of value-added probiotic products, reflecting an effective linkage between biodiversity conservation and modern biotechnology. The benefit-sharing arrangement ensures that a portion of the commercial gains derived from biological resources is channelled back to local communities, thereby supporting community-level development initiatives.

#### About NBA:

- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- It was formally set up in 2003, with its headquarters located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

### AI Solution 'Pancham' Chatbot to Ensure Direct Digital Connect between the Government & Panchayat Functionaries

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- On the eve of the **77th Republic Day**, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj **Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel** honoured elected Panchayat representatives invited as Special Guests for the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- The event was attended by **Shri Vivek Bhadwaj**, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, along with senior ministry officials.
- Several key initiatives and publications were launched, including **PANCHAM chatbot**, **PESA Rankings 2024–25**, **17th Gramoday Sankalp magazine**, **Compendium of Basic Statistics on PRIs–2025**, and the **Expert Committee Report on Service Delivery at Panchayat Level**.
- The Minister highlighted that after ten years, the **SVAMITVA scheme tableau** will be showcased at the Republic Day Parade.



#### About PANCHAM chatbot:

- He highlighted digital initiatives such as the **PANCHAM chatbot**, **SabhaSaar tool** for automated Gram Sabha minutes launched on 15 August 2025, and **AI-based village drainage mapping** in Varanasi district.
- The Ministry launched **PANCHAM – Panchayat Assistance & Messaging Chatbot** on **25 January 2026** as a flagship digital initiative.
- PANCHAM is designed to assist Panchayat representatives and functionaries with guidance, workflows, and easy access to governance information.
- It establishes a **direct digital connection** between the Government of India and over **30 lakh Panchayat representatives and functionaries**.
- The chatbot enables two-way communication, faster issue resolution, improved feedback, and better decision-making.
- PANCHAM supports responsive and accountable governance by strengthening grassroots–government coordination.
- The initiative complements existing digital systems, with over **95% of Gram Panchayats** already using digital planning and accounting platforms.
- Overall, the initiative reflects the Ministry’s focus on **digital governance, innovation, and AI-driven empowerment of Panchayats**.

#### New Aadhaar App dedicated to the nation

- Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics & IT **Jitin Prasada** dedicated the **new Aadhaar App** to the nation.
- The app has been developed by the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
- It is a next-generation, **privacy-first mobile application** for Aadhaar number holders.
- The app enables users to securely **carry, show, share and verify** their Aadhaar digitally.
- The app gives residents greater **control, consent and convenience** over their identity data.
- The app supports multiple real-life use cases such as **hotel check-ins via QR code**, optional face verification, **age verification for cinema tickets**, hospital visitor verification and gig worker verification.



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- It includes features like **face verification for proof of presence**, single-click biometric lock and unlock, and viewing of authentication history.
- A **QR-based contact card** is provided for easy sharing of contact details.
- The app allows management of **up to five Aadhaar profiles on one device**, enabling the concept of “**One Family – One App.**”
- Users can update their **address and registered mobile number** through the app, with more services planned.
- Residents can share only required identity fields through **customised QR codes** generated by requesting entities.
- Aadhaar numbers are not stored by verifiers and only **digitally signed credentials** are shared.
- The app aligns with the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act** by ensuring data minimisation.
- The launch reinforces India’s digital public infrastructure vision of being **resident-centric, inclusive and trust-based**.

#### About UIDAI:

- The Unique Identification Authority of India is a statutory authority established under the provisions of Aadhaar act 2016 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- It is a 12-digit unique identification number
- Chairman: Neelkanth Mishra
- CEO: Bhuvnesh Kumar
- Headquarters: New Delhi

#### Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in association with INSOL India organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conclave

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, in association with INSOL India, organised the **3rd International Conclave** to mark a decade of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and discuss the future of insolvency resolution in India.
- The conclave brought together policymakers, legal experts, practitioners and international participants from multiple jurisdictions.
- **Justice (Retd.) Ramalingam Sudhakar**, President, NCLT, attended as the Chief Guest and highlighted the transformative impact of the IBC on India’s insolvency framework.
- **Ravi Mital**: Chairperson, IBBI
- **Pooja Mahajan**: President, INSOL India

#### About Conclave:

- The conclave featured **five panel discussions** covering key themes related to insolvency resolution.
- The first panel discussed **10 years of the IBC**, its achievements, challenges and the way forward.
- The second panel focused on **asset tracing, enforcement and recovery** across jurisdictions.
- The third panel examined **out-of-court workouts and pre-pack insolvency solutions** for faster resolutions.
- The fourth panel discussed **financing distressed acquisitions and special situations**, including the role of alternative investment funds.
- The fifth panel deliberated on **UNCITRAL Model Law and cross-border insolvency** and India’s preparedness for its adoption.
- A wide range of stakeholders including insolvency professionals, lawyers, financial institutions, regulators, academics and government officials participated in the conclave.

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### About IBBI:

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which was passed by Lok Sabha on 5 May 2016.
- It covers Individuals, Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Partnership firms.
- It handles the cases using two tribunals like NCLT (National company law tribunal) and Debt recovery tribunal.
- Headquarters – New Delhi

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Brazilian Play Passado Presente Zenturo to Make International Debut in India and Russia in 2026

- The **Brazilian theatre production Passado Presente Zenturo** was scheduled for its **international debut in 2026**, with performances in **India and Russia**, marking a major milestone for **Brazil's contemporary theatre**.
- The play was selected for the **25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav**, one of the world's leading theatre festivals, organised by the **National School of Drama (NSD)** under the **Ministry of Culture, India**.
- During the **Indian leg**, the production was staged in **Bengaluru on 5 February 2026** and **New Delhi on 7 February 2026**.
- After its **India tour**, the play was set to represent **Brazil** at the **5th GITIS FEST in Moscow in April 2026**, enhancing **international cultural exchange**.
- The production was directed by **André Haidamus**, featured a **cast of ten performers**, with **lighting by Camila Andrade** and **sound/video design by Cássio Gondim**.



### AWARDS & HONOURS

#### Republic Day Parade 2026: Results announced for Best Marching Contingents & Best Tableaux

- The results of the Best Marching Contingents and Best Tableaux of the **Republic Day Parade 2026** were announced after evaluation by three separate panels of judges.
- Among the three Services, the **Indian Navy** was selected as the Best Marching Contingent, while **Delhi Police** won the award among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces.
- The top three tableaux from States/UTs were **Maharashtra** (Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta), **Jammu & Kashmir** (Handicrafts and Folk Dances of J&K), and **Kerala** (Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy).
- The Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments award was won by the Ministry of Culture for "**Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation**".



- Special prizes were awarded to the Central Public Works Department for “**Vande Mataram – Commemoration of 150 Years**” and the dance group “**Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India**”.
- Under the Popular Choice category, based on the MyGov online poll, the Assam Regiment was selected as the Best Marching Contingent among Services.
- In the Popular Choice category, **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** won the award among CAPFs.
- The top three Popular Choice tableaux were **Gujarat** (Mantra of Swadeshi – Vande Mataram), **Uttar Pradesh** (Culture of Bundelkhand), and **Rajasthan** (Bikaner Gold Art – Usta Art), while the **Department of School Education & Literacy** won the Best Central Tableau for showcasing National Education Policy 2020.

### NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang Awarded 2026 IEEE Medal of Honor, Technology’s Most Prestigious Recognition

- IEEE, the world’s largest technical professional organization with over 500,000 members, has named **Jensen Huang**, founder and CEO of NVIDIA, as the recipient of the **2026 IEEE Medal of Honor**.
- The IEEE Medal of Honor is the organization’s **highest recognition** and carries a **\$2 million prize**.
- Jensen Huang is being honoured for a lifetime of **visionary leadership and pioneering work in accelerated computing**.
- His work has positioned NVIDIA at the forefront of global technological innovation.
- Under his leadership, NVIDIA invented the **first graphics processing unit (GPU) in 1999**, revolutionising computing.
- The invention of the GPU enabled breakthroughs in **artificial intelligence, medicine, engineering, robotics, autonomous vehicles and manufacturing**.
- Past recipients include pioneers such as **Vinton G. Cerf, Robert Kahn, Bradford Parkinson and Morris Chang**.
- NVIDIA became the **first company to reach a \$5 trillion market capitalisation in October 2025**.

Mumbai, Maharashtra, India – Business Wire India IEEE, the world’s largest technical professional organization of more than 500,000 worldwide, dedicated to advancing technology for humanity, proudly announces that Jensen Huang, founder and CEO of NVIDIA, has been named the recipient of the 2026 IEEE Medal of Honor, the organization’s highest accolade, and its accompanying \$2 million prize.

#### About IEEE:

- IEEE Medal of Honor is awarded to individuals whose work has profoundly shaped technology and engineering.
- IEEE President: Mary Ellen Randall
- Established: 1917
- Corporate headquarters: New York City

### RANKING & REPORTS

#### Maharashtra Bags 1st Prize in PESA Rankings; Madhya Pradesh is 2nd & Himachal Pradesh Bags 3rd Position

- Among the **10 States** with Fifth Schedule Areas where PESA Act applies, **Maharashtra** bagged the first position in implementation of PESA, closely followed by **Madhya Pradesh** in second position and **Himachal Pradesh** in third position.
- Minister of State for Panchayat Raj **Shri SP Singh Baghel** congratulated the top performing States and encouraged the

Union Minister of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel Felicitates Panchayat Leaders Invited as Special Guests for Republic Day 2026

PESA State Rankings for 2024 -25 Released; Maharashtra Bags 1st Position, Madhya Pradesh 2nd & Himachal Pradesh 3rd in PESA Implementation

AI Solution ‘Pancham’ Chatbot to Ensure Direct Digital Connect between the Government & Panchayat Functionaries

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other States to follow their foot-steps so that the spirit of PESA Act can be implemented in letter and spirit to strengthen Gram Sabhas and Panchayats in the **Fifth Schedule Areas**.

- These rankings aim to encourage PESA States to strengthen Gram Sabha-centric self-governance, promote evidence-based policy interventions and identify areas requiring focused support.

**The performance of the States in PESA Ranking is as follows:**

State	Performance
Maharashtra Madhya Pradesh Himachal Pradesh	Front Runner
Rajasthan Chhattisgarh Telangana	Performer
Andhra Pradesh Gujarat	Aspirant
Odisha Jharkhand	Beginner

**PESA ACT:**

- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), is a landmark 1996 law empowering Gram Sabhas in 10 Indian states (Fifth Schedule Areas) with self-governance, allowing tribal communities to manage land, water, and forests based on traditional customs.
- Eight of the ten states with tribal Scheduled Areas have framed their PESA rules, while Odisha and Jharkhand have created draft rules.

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

**Mr. Sumant Batra launches book titled “The Life and Legacy of Arun Jaitley” on the life and legacy of Late Mr Arun Jaitley**

- A book titled **The Life and Legacy of Arun Jaitley** has been formally launched, chronicling the life, contributions, and legacy of late leader **Arun Jaitley**.
- The book is authored by **Sumant Batra** and published by **Om Books International**.
- Former Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** attended the event as the chief guest, underlining Jaitley’s national stature.
- The book portrays Arun Jaitley as an exceptional public figure who left a lasting imprint across law, politics, governance, and public service in India.

**Book on Arun Jaitley launched**

**‘THE LIFE AND Legacy of Arun Jaitley’** by Sumant Batra, published by Om Books International, was launched at a gathering of jurists, policymakers and public figures on Wednesday. The occasion was as much a book release as it was a collective tribute to the late Arun Jaitley—remembered as one of India’s most respected leaders, lawyers, parliamentarians and reformers. The launch featured trib- Justice A.K. Sikri; former NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant; Member of Parliament and Senior Advocate, Abhishek Manu Singhvi; Senior Advocate and former Attorney General of India, Mukul Rohatgi; publisher of Om Books International, Ajay Mago.

They highlighted Jaitley’s extraordinary blend of intellect, civility, consensus-building and commitment

**Andhra Pradesh**



**Book on President Droupadi Murmu Released by Sanitation Worker at Andhra University**

- The Telugu book **'Agni Sarsulu Vikasinchina Kamalam Draupadi Murmu'** (The lotus that bloomed in the fire of embers), which

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**Sanitation Worker Unveils Book on President Draupadi Murmu**

describes the life of President Draupadi Murmu from her tribal roots to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was released at **Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

- This book was released by **Lakshamma**, a woman sanitation worker who cleans the roads at Andhra University.
- It has been written by former Member of **Parliament (MP) Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad (President of the World Hindi Council)**.
- The book was unveiled by **Lakshamma**, a woman sanitation worker who cleans the roads at Andhra University, who represents the story of Murmu's empowerment for marginalized communities.
- It highlights resilience amid personal tragedies (death of husband/children) and political struggles, inspiring democratic participation in tribal areas.
- The book release ceremony was held in an unconventional, yet impactful setting - under a tree on the Andhra University campus.
- The choice of location and the person chosen to release the book underlined the author's message of social equality, dignity of labour, and inclusiveness.

**Murmu's historical achievements:**

- Mrs. Draupadi Murmu took oath as the **15th President of India on 25 July 2022**.
- Before this, she served as the **9th Governor of Jharkhand state from 2015 to 2021**.
- Mrs. Draupadi Murmu was born on **20 June 1958**, in a Santhal tribal family in Uparbeda of the remote Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
- From **1979 to 1983**, Mrs. Murmu worked as a Junior Assistant in the Irrigation and Power Department of the Odisha government.
- She was elected councillor of the **Rairangpur Notified Area Council in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha (1997)** and later became the Vice-Chairperson of Rairangpur NAC.
- She served two terms (**2000-2009**) as a Member of the **Odisha Legislative Assembly from the Rairangpur Assembly constituency**.

**DEFENCE NEWS**

**Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Enhances Maritime Ties with Indonesia**

- The **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS)** departed **Belawan, Indonesia**, after a successful **three-day port call**, aimed at strengthening **maritime engagement** with Indonesia under the **IONS framework** and the **MAHASAGAR vision**.
- The visit involved **INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi**, whose crews and trainees engaged extensively with the **Indonesian Navy**.

**Key Highlights :**

- The **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** is a **voluntary initiative** aimed at increasing **maritime cooperation** among navies of the **littoral states** of the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** by providing an **open and inclusive forum** to discuss regionally relevant maritime issues.
- The **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** comprises **36 littoral (coastal) states**, organized into **four main regional groups: South Asian, West Asian, East African, and South East Asian/Australian**.

**India to expand its hypersonic arsenal with LR-AshM missile**



**DRO's Long Range Anti-Ship Missile during the 82nd parade.**  
Sushant Kulkarni  
Pune, January 26

ONE of the many highlights of the 77th Republic Day Parade was the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AshM), showcased for the first time. We've taken the features and capabilities of this hypersonic glide missile, and also what other hypersonic missiles India is developing.

**LR-AshM: The hypersonic glide missile**

The missile system is designed to meet the coastal security requirements of the Indian Navy. The LR-AshM is capable of engaging ships and coastal targets up to 1,000 km range and has a range of around 1,000 km.

The missile follows a steep ballistic trajectory with hypersonic speeds starting at Mach 10 (multiples of speed of sound) and maintaining average Mach 8 until mid-flight. Surface missiles are nose powered initially and then re-ignite powered on a high, angled trajectory. Quad-baffle canards (highly manoeuvrable but low speed) and manoeuvres in flight to change course and evade interception. Both missiles flight low altitude with high speed and manoeuvrability, enemy ground and ship-based radars cannot detect. The LR-AshM is configured with a two-stage solid propulsion rocket motor system. These propulsion systems boost the missile to the required hypersonic velocities. Stage 1 of the vehicle is separated after it is spent. After Stage 2, the vehicle performs an unpowered glide with required manoeuvres in the atmosphere before engaging the target, the DRDO has said.

**DIFFICULT TO DETECT**

• The missile can't be detected by enemy radars, and has an altitude as high as 50,000 ft and manoeuvrable.

**Its significance**

The obvious advantage of the hypersonic speed it makes it difficult for missiles to detect. The missile has a range of up to 1,000 km, which can cover 100 nautical miles.

range around 1,000 kilometers to 15 minutes. Versions with higher ranges up to 3,000 kilometers are also in various stages of development. A senior DRDO scientist said, "All classes of warships can be destroyed with the missile. This variant and the upcoming range will be a key asset for sea denial operations, which prevent an adversary from using a maritime area for military or commercial purposes. This capability will be crucial for the strategically significant Indian Ocean region. Army and Air Force versions of the missile are also being developed."

- During the **three-day port call**, the crew and trainees of **1TS ships** conducted **professional interactions, cultural exchanges, training visits, and friendly sports meets**, fostering **mutual understanding** and strengthening **bilateral ties**.
- **Capt Tijo K Joseph**, Senior Officer of 1TS, along with **Commanding Officers** of 1TS ships, interacted with **Laksamana Muda (RAdm) Deny Septiana**, Commander, **Naval Area Command I (Komando Kodaeral I)**, discussing **shared maritime interests**.
- The **1TS deployment** to Indonesia reflects **longstanding maritime ties** between the two nations and advances **India's Act East Policy** by extending **maritime presence** and **cooperation** in the **Indian Ocean** and **Southeast Asian region**.

### Defence Research and Development Organisation Unveils Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile at 77th Republic Day Parade

- At the **77th Republic Day Parade** on **Kartavya Path**, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** unveiled the **Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM)** for the first time, highlighting India's advances in **hypersonic weapon systems**.

#### Key Highlights :

- The **LR-AShM** is designed to meet the **Indian Navy's coastal battery requirements** and is capable of engaging both **static and moving targets** at ranges of up to **1,500 km**, with **multiple payload options**.
- **Extended-range variants** of up to **3,500 km** are under development, and **Army and Air Force versions** are also being considered.
- The **LR-AShM** follows a **quasi-ballistic trajectory**, starting like a ballistic missile but flying at **lower altitudes** and **manoeuvring mid-course**.
- It achieves **hypersonic speeds** of **Mach 10** initially and sustains average speeds of **Mach 5**, using **multiple atmospheric skips** to **evade interception**.
- The missile's **low-altitude flight, extreme speed, and manoeuvrability** make it **hard to detect** and significantly reduce **enemy reaction time**.
- **LR-AShM** uses a **two-stage solid rocket motor**, where **Stage I** boosts it to **hypersonic velocity** and **Stage II** enters an **unpowered glide phase** executing **controlled manoeuvres** before hitting the target.
- The missile has **high aerodynamic efficiency**, enabling it to generate **effective lift** with **minimal drag**, which enhances **range, speed, and accuracy**.
- **Flight time** for **1,500 km** is approximately **15 minutes**, sharply reducing **adversary response time**.
- **LR-AShM** strengthens **sea denial capabilities** and can neutralise **all classes of warships**, becoming a **critical asset** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- **Multi-service potential**: Versions for the **Army, Air Force, and ship-launched platforms** are being considered, showing India's **versatility** in **hypersonic weapons development**.
- The missile leverages **proven technologies** from India's **K-15 (Sagarika) missile** and **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**, integrating **propulsion and guidance systems** into a **next-generation hypersonic platform**.
- **DRDO** pursues two **hypersonic paths**: **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV)**, like **LR-AShM**, and **hypersonic cruise missiles** powered by **scramjets**, both designed for **sustained hypersonic flight**.



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- **Ramjets vs Scramjets:** Ramjets operate efficiently up to **Mach 3**, while **scramjets** allow **supersonic airflow** in combustion chambers, enabling operation **above Mach 5** but are more **complex to design**.
- **DRDO** conducted **ground tests** of a full-scale **actively cooled scramjet combustor**, running for over **12 minutes**, advancing operational **hypersonic cruise missile development**.
- **DRDO** previously demonstrated **hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology** with the **Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV)** flight test in **September 2020** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex**.
- The **DRDO** tableau at **Bharat Parv 2026** also showcased **submarine technologies** such as **Integrated Combat Suite (ICS)**, **Wire Guided Heavy Weight Torpedo (WGHWT)**, and **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** system.

#### About DRDO :

- **Headquarters** : New Delhi, India
- **Chairman** : Samir V. Kamat

### ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

#### GAIL Joins K LINE and J M Baxi for Equity Participation in LNG Carrier Company

- **GAIL (India) Limited** has signed a **term sheet** for **equity participation** in a **ship-owning company** based in **Singapore**, in partnership with **J M Baxi Marine Services** and Japan's **Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K LINE)**.
- The **term sheet signing** took place in the presence of **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**, from the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.
- The agreement was signed during the **India Energy Week (IEW) 2026**, which was held in **Goa**.
- The **equity participation deal** relates to a **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier**, highlighting India's focus on **energy transportation infrastructure**.
- The **LNG carrier** is currently **under construction** at **Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI)** in **South Korea (SK)**.
- The vessel is scheduled for **delivery in 2027** and will operate under a **long-term charter agreement** with **GAIL**.
- **GAIL** will make the investment through its **wholly owned subsidiary**, **GAIL Global International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Limited**.
- The subsidiary is located at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, Gujarat, reinforcing India's **IFSC framework**.
- The investment is subject to **regulatory approvals**, including clearance from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)**.



#### Competition Commission of India Clears Emirates NBD Bank's Acquisition of Majority Stake in RBL Bank

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed acquisition of a **majority stake** in **RBL Bank Limited** by UAE-based **Emirates NBD Bank**, allowing the lender to take **control** of the **Indian private sector bank**.

CCI approves proposed acquisition of certain shareholding in RBL Bank Ltd. by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C.)

संज्ञा संख्या: 20. JAN 2026 7:30PM by PIB Delhi

The Commission has approved the proposed acquisition of certain shareholding in RBL Bank Limited by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C.)

The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of shareholding of up to 74% (and not less than 51%) of RBL Bank Limited (RBL) by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C.) (ENBD), pursuant to:

- A mandatory open offer under the provisions of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 representing up to 26% of the expanded voting capital of RBL;
- A preferential allotment of equity shares amounting to up to 60% of the total paid-up equity share capital of RBL; and
- The proposed amalgamation of ENBD's banking operations in India (carried on through the branch mode and operating through its network of 3 branches in India) (ENBD India Branches) into and with RBL, on a going concern basis.

ENBD is a public joint stock company listed on the Dubai Financial Market, and headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). ENBD is a banking group active in several countries including India. It is engaged in range of banking products and services including retail banking, corporate and institutional banking, Islamic banking, investment banking, private banking, asset management, global markets and treasury, and brokerage operations.

RBL is a listed company incorporated in India, operating in the business of providing banking, financial and insurance services. It is a private sector bank and offers inter alia deposit taking services, loans and lending services, digital payment services and cash management services. RBL also has an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City, which functions as an overseas branch.

Detailed order of the Commission will follow.

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- The deal involves a **primary capital infusion** of about **USD 3 billion (₹26,850 crore)** to acquire a **controlling stake** in **RBL Bank**.
- The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of **up to 74% (minimum 51%)** shareholding of **RBL Bank Limited (RBL)** by **Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C.)**.
- **Emirates NBD** is a **public joint stock company**, listed on the **Dubai Financial Market**, headquartered in **Dubai, UAE**, and offers a wide range of **banking and financial services** internationally.
- **Emirates NBD's** banking operations in **India** are currently conducted through **three branches** operating in branch mode.
- **RBL Bank** operates an **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City**, functioning as an **overseas branch** and enhancing its **international banking presence**.
- Separately, **CCI** approved **Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited's** acquisition of an **additional 30.58% stake** in **Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited**.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Microsoft Launches Maia 200 AI Chip to Strengthen Integrated AI Ecosystem

- **Microsoft** has introduced the **second generation** of its in-house **artificial intelligence processor**, "**Maia 200**", along with a new suite of **AI-focused software tools**, strengthening its push to build an **integrated AI ecosystem**.
- The **Maia 200 AI chip** builds on Microsoft's first **Maia chip**, which was originally introduced in **2023**.
- The **Maia 200** is manufactured by **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)** using advanced **3-nanometer (3-nm) process technology**.
- The chip incorporates **high-bandwidth memory**, enhancing its ability to handle **data-intensive AI workloads**.
- The **Maia 200 AI processor** is now **operational** at a Microsoft **data centre in Iowa**, marking its **first live deployment**.
- Microsoft has plans to **expand deployment** of the **Maia 200** to additional **data-centre facilities**.
- Compared to its predecessor, **Maia 200** offers **higher compute capability**, **increased memory bandwidth**, and **better energy efficiency**.
- These improvements enable **faster** and more **cost-effective** artificial intelligence workloads, making the **Maia 200** a **key component** of Microsoft's **AI infrastructure strategy**.



#### National Institution for Transforming India Aayog Collaborates with NIIT Foundation to Promote Digital Skills in Aspirational Blocks

- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** with **NIIT Foundation** to advance **digital literacy**, **financial inclusion**, and **skill development** across **Aspirational Blocks**.
- The partnership was formalised in the presence of **BVR Subrahmanyam**, CEO of NITI Aayog, and **Rohit Kumar**, Additional Secretary and Mission Director of **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**, NITI Aayog.



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- The initiative aims to achieve **100% block coverage**, reaching approximately **1.2 lakh beneficiaries**, with at least **40% women participation**.
- The programme focuses on training individuals in **basic and advanced digital skills** to enable them to access **online platforms, government services, and digital tools**.
- It seeks to promote awareness of **banking, insurance, and other financial services**, empowering **underserved communities**.
- The initiative also provides **vocational training, employability skills, and community-based learning programs** to enhance **income opportunities**.
- **NIIT Foundation** will manage the programme, deploying **trained mobilisers** and trainers and enhancing the skills of **local community facilitators**.

### Department of Posts Partners with Stock Holding Services Limited to Expand Capital Market Services via India Post Network

- The **Department of Posts (DoP)**, Ministry of Communications, signed an agreement with **Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL)** at Dak Bhawan, New Delhi, to expand **regulated capital market services** across India through the **India Post (IP) network**.
- Under this partnership, **India Post** will help citizens participate in **organised financial markets** by providing access to **SSL's digital investment services**.
- The **capital market services** offered include opening of **Dematerialized (Demat) and trading accounts, Mutual Fund (MF) investments, participation in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)**, and other authorised investment products.
- These services will be facilitated through **digital onboarding links, Quick Response (QR) codes, and selected post office outlets** across the country.
- **SSL**, with support from **DoP**, will conduct **investor education and awareness programs**, with a focus on **first-time investors and underserved populations in rural and semi-urban areas**.
- The partnership aims to strengthen **financial literacy and inclusion** by leveraging the widespread **India Post network**.



### Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and Central Sanskrit University Conduct 15-Day Workshop on Ayurvedic Manuscripts in Kerala

- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, in collaboration with the **Central Sanskrit University (CSU)**, successfully completed a **15-day Transliteration Capacity-Building Workshop on Ayurvedic manuscripts in Kerala**.
- The workshop was conducted under a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **CCRAS and CSU**, as part of a **national initiative to document, digitise, and promote** research-based utilisation of classical Ayurvedic manuscripts.
- The workshop was held at the **CSU Puranattukara**

Decoding India's medical heritage

From Palm Leaf to Research Text: CCRAS-CSU Initiative Makes Rare Ayurvedic Manuscripts Research-Ready

Posted On: 27 JAN 2026 1:31 PM by PIB Delhi

In a significant step towards preserving and advancing India's classical medical heritage, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, in collaboration with the Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi, successfully conducted a 15-day Transliteration Capacity Building Workshop on Ayurvedic Manuscripts at the CSU Puraanattukara (Guruvayoor) Campus in Thrissur, Kerala, from 12 to 25 January 2026.



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(Guruvayoor) Campus, Thrissur, Kerala, from 12 to 25 January 2026, and brought together 33 scholars, including 18 from Ayurveda and 15 from Sanskrit, promoting an interdisciplinary approach.

- Participants were trained in **manuscriptology, palaeography, Ayurvedic technical terminology, and script orientation**, with a special focus on **Grantha and Vattezhuthu** scripts.
- The **hands-on transliteration training** covered **Grantha, Medieval Malayalam, and Vattezhuthu**, enabling participants to work directly on **original palm-leaf manuscripts** and produce **verifiable scholarly outputs**.
- As a major outcome, **five rare and previously unpublished Ayurvedic manuscripts** were successfully **transliterated**:
- **Dhanwanthari (Vaidya) Chinthamani** – 146 palm-leaf pages, **Grantha to Sanskrit**
- **Dravyashuddhi** – 110 pages, **Grantha to Sanskrit**
- **Vaidyam** – 59 pages, **Medieval Malayalam to Malayalam**
- **Roga Nirnaya, Part I** – 75 pages, **Medieval Malayalam to Malayalam**
- **Vividharogangal** – 78 palm-leaf pages, **Vattezhuthu to Malayalam and Sanskrit**
- **Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya**, Director General, CCRAS, noted that this was the **second collaborative programme** with CSU under the **Ayurveda Manuscript Research Initiative**, following a first workshop at **CSU Puri Campus, Odisha**, where **14 manuscripts** were transliterated.
- The programme was coordinated by **Prof. K. Vishwanathan (CSU)** and **Dr. Parvathy G. Nair (CCRAS)**. The **valedictory session** was attended by **Dr. V. C. Deep** (In-charge, CCRAS–NARIP), senior officials, academicians, and subject experts.

### Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Researchers Develop Framework to Identify 492 Potential Glacial Lake Sites in Eastern Himalayas

- Researchers from **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** developed a **predictive framework** that identified **492 potential glacial lake formation sites** in the **Eastern Himalayan region**.
- The study utilised **high-resolution Google Earth imagery** and **digital elevation models (DEMs)**, enabling **realistic forecasts** by capturing complex terrain features and uncertainty.
- The framework can support **early-warning systems** for **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)** and guide **safer infrastructure planning** for roads, hydropower projects, and settlements.
- In developing the framework, researchers tested **three predictive methods: Logistic Regression (LR), Artificial Neural Network (ANN), and Bayesian Neural Network (BNN)**.
- Among the methods, **Bayesian Neural Network (BNN)** was the **most accurate**, as it effectively captured complex landscape features and **quantified prediction uncertainty**.
- The analysis identified **neighbouring lakes, cirques, gentle slopes, and retreating glaciers** as the **strongest predictors** of new glacial lake formation.
- The framework provides **critical insights** for **disaster-risk reduction, long-term water-resource management, and climate-resilient development** in high-mountain Himalayan regions.



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- Researchers plan to integrate **moraine development histories, automate data preparation**, and include **field-based validation** to enhance prediction accuracy.
- The framework is **adaptable** to other **glaciated mountain regions worldwide**, making it a valuable tool for **global climate adaptation, large-scale glacial hazard monitoring**, and **disaster-risk reduction strategies**.

## 2026 Doomsday Clock Set at 85 Seconds to Midnight, Signalling Record High Global Risks

- The **2026 Doomsday Clock** was moved to **85 seconds to midnight**, the **closest point ever**, highlighting **heightened risks** to humanity from **nuclear weapons, climate change, and artificial intelligence**.
- The **clock adjustment** was made by the **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS)**, which warned that **rising aggression, nationalism, and erosion of global cooperation** were increasing the **likelihood of catastrophe**.
- The **farthest setting** of the **Doomsday Clock** was **17 minutes to midnight** in **1991**, following the **end of the Cold War**.
- The **Doomsday Clock**, created in **1947**, is a **symbolic warning system**, where **midnight** represents **total annihilation**, and **movements** of the clock reflect changes in **man-made existential risks**.
- The **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS)** was founded in **September 1945** by the **Atomic Scientists of Chicago** at the **University of Chicago**.

### Doomsday Clock: 85 seconds to midnight

Vasudevan Mukundh

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock to 85 seconds to midnight, the closest the world has ever been to global catastrophe in its estimation. The announcement, on January 27 in Washington DC, reflects a darkening security landscape marked by eroding nuclear norms, escalating conflicts in Europe and Asia, climate and biological risks, and a fracturing international order. The new setting moves the clock forward from its previous position of 89 seconds to midnight from a year ago.

"Last year, we warned that the world was perilously close to catastrophe and that countries needed to change course towards international cooperation and actions on the most critical existential risks," SSI Chair and University of Chicago professor Daniel Holz said. "Unfortunately, the opposite has happened." The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop the first atomic weapons in the Manhattan Project. The Doomsday Clock was created two years later, in 1947, as a metaphor for the



The Doomsday Clock

likelihood of a human-made global catastrophe. The Bulletin's foremost concern seems to be nuclear weapons. Recent rhetoric from the Trump administration regarding the potential resumption of nuclear testing and the modernisation of atomic stockpiles is already destabilising decades of deterrence strategy, fueling an

xisty among both allies and adversaries. "The last remaining treaty governing nuclear weapon stockpiles between the U.S. and Russia expires next week. For the first time in over half a century, there will be nothing preventing a runaway nuclear arms race," Mr. Holz said. He also cited the worsening consequences of climate change, AI's effects on mis- and disinformation, and what he called the "rise of nationalistic autocracies" – referring to the recent events in Minnesota – to support the Clock being less than a minute and half from midnight.

## APPS & PORTALS

### Sh Jitin Prasada Launches New Aadhaar App, a Key Milestone in Citizen-Centric Digital Identity Verification

- **Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & IT, Sh Jitin Prasada**, dedicated the **new Aadhaar App** to the nation, marking a major milestone in **resident-centric digital identity verification**.

#### Key Highlights :

- The **Aadhaar App**, developed by the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, is a **next-generation mobile platform** designed to provide **Aadhaar Number Holders (ANH)** with a **secure, privacy-first, and convenient** way to carry, share, show, and verify their **digital identity**.
- The app introduces **one-click biometric lock/unlock** and allows users to share **encrypted Aadhaar details**, enhancing **security and privacy**.
- The app supports storage of **Aadhaar details of up to five family members** under a single account, enabling **selective disclosure** of only necessary data to protect privacy.
- **UIDAI** implemented an **Offline Verification Seeking Entity (OVSE)** policy to provide a **uniform framework** for **offline Aadhaar verification** by requesting entities.
- **UIDAI Chairman Neelkanth Mishra** and **CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar** highlighted that **selective credential sharing** via **digitally signed QR codes** ensures **privacy** and compliance with the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act**.

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New Aadhaar App dedicated to the nation  
New Aadhaar App reimagines identity verification keeping people at its core  
Selective sharing, Consent Control at Fingertips  
Show, Share, Verify: Aadhaar App to expand Aadhaar usage, enhance ease of living  
Posted On: 28 JAN 2026 8:47PM by PIB Delhi

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics & Information Technology Sh Jitin Prasada today dedicated the new Aadhaar App to the nation, marking a significant milestone in identity verification keeping people at its core.



- The app promotes **public trust, good governance, and citizen empowerment**, placing **control, consent, and convenience** firmly in the hands of residents.
- The app enhances **security**, supports **data minimisation**, and allows **selective sharing of information** by Aadhaar number holders.
- **Real-life use cases** supported by the app include **hotel check-ins** using **OVSE QR codes**, **optional face verification, age verification** for cinema tickets, **hospital admissions**, and **verification of gig workers** and service partners.
- **Advanced functionalities** include **face verification** for proof of presence, **biometric lock/unlock in a single click**, viewing **authentication history**, and a **QR-based contact card** for easy sharing.
- The app allows management of **up to five Aadhaar profiles** on a single device, enabling **“One Family – One App”**, and supports **address and mobile number updates**, with more services planned in the future.
- The launch of the **new Aadhaar App** reinforces India’s principle that **digital public infrastructure** must be **resident-centric, inclusive, and built on trust**.

### OBITUARIES

#### Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party Chief Ajit Pawar Passed away in Aircraft Crash at Baramati

- **Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister (DyCM) of Maharashtra** and chief of the **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)**, passed away at the age of **66** in a **Learjet 45** aircraft (VT-SSK) crash at **Baramati Airport, Pune, Maharashtra**, on **January 28, 2026**.



#### About Ajit Pawar:

- He was born on **July 22, 1959**, in **Deolali Pravara**, located in **Ahmednagar** district of Maharashtra.
- Ajit Pawar was a senior Indian politician with a strong influence in **western Maharashtra** and deep grassroots connections, which enabled him to play a key role in shaping state politics and **coalition governments**.
- He began his public career in **1982** after being elected to the board of a **sugar cooperative**, reflecting his roots in the **cooperative movement**.
- In **1991**, he became the **Chairman** of the **Pune District Cooperative Bank** and served for **16 years** in that position.
- He entered **national politics** in **1991** when he was elected as a **Member of Parliament (MP)** to the **Lok Sabha** from **Baramati, Maharashtra**.
- In the same year **1991**, he won the **Baramati Assembly constituency** and represented it continuously for over **three decades**, achieving his **eighth consecutive victory** in **November 2024**.
- In **February 2024**, Ajit Pawar became the **chief of the NCP faction** following the party split, after his group was recognized by the **Election Commission (EC)**.
- He was one of the **longest-serving Deputy Chief Ministers** of Maharashtra, holding the post **six times** between **2010 and 2026**.
- He served as **Deputy CM** under different Chief Ministers, including **Prithviraj Chavan, Uddhav Thackeray, Devendra Fadnavis, and Eknath Shinde**.
- During **1991–1992**, he served as **Minister of State (MoS)** for **Agriculture and Power** in the Maharashtra government.
- From **2010 to 2014**, he held the portfolio of **Minister of Finance, Planning and Energy**.

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- Between **2019 and 2026**, he served as **Minister of Finance and Planning**, often also handling **State Excise**.

### Daily CA One- Liner: January 30

- The **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026** have been notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and will come into force from **1 April 2026**, replacing the 2016 rules
- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** is strengthening India's commitment to sustainable use of biological resources and fair benefit sharing under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework.
- On the eve of the **77th Republic Day**, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj **Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel** honoured elected Panchayat representatives invited as Special Guests for the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi
- Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics & IT **Jitin Prasada** dedicated the **new Aadhaar App** to the nation.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, in association with INSOL India, organised the **3rd International Conclave** to mark a decade of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and discuss the future of insolvency resolution in India.
- The results of the Best Marching Contingents and Best Tableaux of the **Republic Day Parade 2026** were announced after evaluation by three separate panels of judges
- IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organization with over 500,000 members, has named **Jensen Huang**, founder and CEO of NVIDIA, as the recipient of the **2026 IEEE Medal of Honor**
- Among the **10 States** with Fifth Schedule Areas where PESA Act applies, **Maharashtra** bagged the first position in implementation of PESA, closely followed by **Madhya Pradesh** in second position and **Himachal Pradesh** in third position
- A book titled **The Life and Legacy of Arun Jaitley** has been formally launched, chronicling the life, contributions, and legacy of late leader **Arun Jaitley**
- The Telugu book '**Agni Sarsulu Vikasinchina Kamalam Draupadi Murmu**' (The lotus that bloomed in the fire of embers), which describes the life of President Draupadi Murmu from her tribal roots to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was released at **Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has put on hold plans to require **domestic banks** to disclose and manage **climate-related risks**.
- The **Brazilian theatre production Passado Presente Zenturo** was scheduled for its **international debut** in **2026**, with performances in **India** and **Russia**, marking a major milestone for **Brazil's contemporary theatre**.
- The **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS)** departed **Belawan, Indonesia**, after a successful **three-day port call**, aimed at strengthening **maritime engagement** with Indonesia under the **IONS framework** and the **MAHASAGAR vision**.
- At the **77th Republic Day Parade** on **Kartavya Path**, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** unveiled the **Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM)** for the first time, highlighting India's advances in **hypersonic weapon systems**.
- **GAIL (India) Limited** has signed a **term sheet** for **equity participation** in a **ship-owning company** based in **Singapore**, in partnership with **J M Baxi Marine Services** and Japan's **Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K LINE)**.

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed acquisition of a **majority stake** in **RBL Bank Limited** by UAE-based **Emirates NBD Bank**, allowing the lender to take **control** of the **Indian private sector bank**.
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- The **Department of Posts (DoP)**, Ministry of Communications, signed an agreement with **Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL)** at Dak Bhawan, New Delhi, to expand **regulated capital market services** across India through the **India Post (IP) network**.
- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, in collaboration with the **Central Sanskrit University (CSU)**, successfully completed a **15-day Transliteration Capacity-Building Workshop** on **Ayurvedic manuscripts** in Kerala.
- Researchers from **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** developed a **predictive framework** that identified **492 potential glacial lake formation sites** in the **Eastern Himalayan region**.
- The **2026 Doomsday Clock** was moved to **85 seconds to midnight**, the **closest point ever**, highlighting **heightened risks** to humanity from **nuclear weapons**, **climate change**, and **artificial intelligence**.
- **Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & IT, Sh Jitin Prasada**, dedicated the **new Aadhaar App** to the nation, marking a major milestone in **resident-centric digital identity verification**.
- **Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister (DyCM) of Maharashtra** and chief of the **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)**, passed away at the age of **66** in a **Learjet 45 aircraft (VT-SSK) crash** at **Baramati Airport, Pune, Maharashtra, on January 28, 2026**.