

SwetchaSat

Andhra Pradesh-based start-up tests ultra-high-frequency communication tech on ISRO's POEM-4.


Key Points

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh-based space start-up **N Space Tech** has successfully tested an **indigenously developed ultra-high-frequency communication system** aboard its payload, SwetchaSat, using ISRO's POEM-4 platform.
- ❖ The startup received its **first set of data packages from SwetchaSat-V0 at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru** on January 1st, 2025 marking a new advancement in satellite communication.
- ❖ This launch paves the way for faster and more reliable communication for many satellite applications
- ❖ N Space Tech was Founded in **2020**. It specialises in satellite-communication systems and space solutions.
- ❖ The **ISRO's PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM-4)** platform re-purposes the spent fourth stage of the PSLV rocket into a stable orbital environment for experimental
- ❖ Payloads. The **POEM-4 platform has 24 payloads** from various ISRO laboratories, private start-up firms and educational institutes.

Human Metapneumovirus

A recent outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China has raised alarm globally. Several countries, including India, are monitoring the virus and its spread closely.

What is Human Metapneumovirus?

- ❖ Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a **common respiratory virus** that causes lower and upper respiratory infections (like a cold). 
- ❖ It is a seasonal disease that usually occurs in the winter and early spring.
- ❖ It was **discovered in 2001**. HMPV is in the **Pneumoviridae family along with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)**.
- ❖ People of **all ages**, especially among young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are more prone to get infected.
- ❖ **Symptoms:** Symptoms commonly associated with HMPV include **cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath**.
- ❖ **Transmission:** HMPV is most likely spread from an infected person to others through
 - secretions from coughing and sneezing
 - close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
 - touching objects or surfaces that have the viruses on them then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes
- **Treatment:** Currently, there is no specific antiviral therapy to treat HMPV and no vaccine to prevent HMPV. Medical care is supportive.

Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0 programme

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0 programme in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ Around five hundred elected women representatives from Panchayati Raj institutions from **20 States and Union Territories** are participating in the programme.

- ❖ It is aimed at empowering elected women representatives from Scheduled Tribes from Panchayati Raj institutions and enhancing their knowledge of constitutional provisions, parliamentary procedures, and governance to foster effective leadership.
- ❖ It is organised to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti 2025 was celebrated on January 6.

About Guru Gobind Singh

- ❖ He was the **10th Sikh guru**. He was born in **1666, at Patna Sahib, Bihar**.
- ❖ He became the Sikhs' leader at the age of nine, following the martyrdom of his father, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, who gave his life to safeguard religious freedom. Aurangzeb killed his father, Guru Teg Bahadur, as he refused to convert to Islam.
- ❖ Guru Gobind Ji founded the **Khalsa Panth** with a grand ceremony at Anandpur Sahib in 1699.
- ❖ The Khalsa was founded to promote justice and equality in an oppressive society.
- ❖ Guru Gobind Singh Ji **declared the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture**, as the eternal Guru of Sikhism before he died in 1708.

Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a **special webpage for the Mahakumbh Mela**. The new webpage will provide weather updates every 15 minutes and give weather forecasts twice a day.

- ❖ On 5th January 2025, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated a **13-km section of the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor from Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh to New Ashok Nagar, east Delhi**, marking the first entry of Namo Bharat trains into the national capital and connecting the city via the high-speed trains to Meerut.

Awards/Titles

82nd Golden Globe Awards

- ❖ Best Motion Picture, Drama: **"The Brutalist"**
- ❖ Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: **"Emilia Pérez"**
- ❖ Cinematic and Box Office Achievement: **"Wicked"**
- ❖ Best Motion Picture, Non-English Language: **"Emilia Pérez"**
- ❖ Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama: Adrien Brody for **"The Brutalist"**
- ❖ Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: Demi Moore for **"The Substance"**
- ❖ Best Director, Motion Picture: Brady Corbet for the **"The Brutalist"**
- ❖ Best Original Song, Motion Picture: **"El Mal," "Emilia Pérez"**
- ❖ Best Television Series, Drama: **"Shogun"**
- ❖ Best Television Series, Musical or Comedy: **"Hacks"**
- ❖ Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series, Drama: Hiroyuki Sanada, **"Shogun"**
- ❖ Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series, Musical or Comedy: Jean Smart, **"Hacks"**



Important News- Other States

Maharashtra

- ❖ The Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) has conceptualized a flagship initiative called '**Faral Sakhi**'.
- ❖ It aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in the city of Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra.
- ❖ MBMC collaborated with **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog** and formally launched '**Faral Sakhi**' under Award to Reward initiative of WEP.
- ❖ The '**Faral Sakhi**' initiative aims at creating permanent employment opportunities for women by engaging them in the production and sale of traditional festive snacks ('Faral').

New Delhi

- ❖ On 5th January 2025, the Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for the **new state-of-the-art building for the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI)** at **Rohini** in New Delhi. The CARI, established in 1979, has been a pioneer in clinical research in Ayurveda, particularly focusing on Preventive Cardiology and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The institute has operated from rented premises in Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, for many years. The government has now taken a giant leap forward by providing CARI with a state-of-the-art facility of its own.

Important News- Worldwide

UAE

- ❖ The UAE has launched the region's first digital platform dedicated to implementing the **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)**.

- ❖ CORSIA, a **global scheme adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** under its General Assembly resolution in 2016, was implemented starting in 2019.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ A total of **2,361 cadets** are participating in the month-long **National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2025**. Of the total cadets, a record 917 of them are girls who are participating in the camp. This year, the **NCC Republic Day Camp** is witnessing the highest participation of girls in the camp's history.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Defence declares 2025 as 'Year of Reforms'**. This would aim at transforming the Armed Forces into a technologically-advanced combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations.
- ❖ According to **CloudSEK's Threat Landscape Report 2024**, **India ranked as the second most targeted nation globally for cyberattacks in 2024**, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft. The United States led the list of most targeted countries, with 140 cyberattacks attributed to its economic and digital prominence. The report highlighted critical vulnerabilities across sectors, exposing the risks accompanying rapid digitisation. CloudSEK is a cyber Intelligence platform.
- ❖ **The 15th edition of Asia's biggest aero show Aero India 2025** will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka from the 10th-14th February.

- The theme of the event is **The Runway to a Billion Opportunities.**
- Aero India will provide a unique platform for forging partnerships between foreign and Indian firms to accelerate the indigenisation process and showcase cutting-edge technologies.

- ❖ The Government of India has decided to constitute a Working Group for base revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from base 2011-12 to 2022-23. The Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member of the NITI Aayog is the chairman of the group.

○○○○

UPPSC
WALLAH