Daily Current Affairs

📅 **Date : 21 February, 2026**

UTKARSH CLASSES · **CIVIL SERVICES**

📑 Index 📄

🏜️ 🐪 RAJASTHAN 🏰

National Conference on Cyber Security and Awareness: Jaipur

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **Recently, the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RALSA) organized a three-day "National Conference on Cyber Security and Awareness" in Jaipur.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Chief Guests:** Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

■ **Event Duration:** February 20 to 22, 2026.

■ **Organizer:** Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RALSA).

■ **Venue:** Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.

- **Theme:** "Cyber Safety: Awareness, Protection, and Inclusive Access to Justice"

- **Main Objective:** To develop a robust roadmap to combat rising cybercrimes in the digital age.

- **Launches:** During the conference, the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RALSA) launched the online mediation and Lok Adalat platform, "e-Samadhaan." The "Mahila Panchayat Pan Rajasthan" initiative was also launched.

- Prizes were presented to children with disabilities who won sports competitions organized under the Sports for Awareness "Udaan 2.0" program at the event.

Other highlights:

- **Rajasthan's ranking in cybersecurity:** The Rajasthan Police ranks 5th in the country in freezing defrauded funds and disrupting fraud networks.

- **Establishment of a Cyber Court in Rajasthan:** A Cyber Court will be established in Rajasthan to address the new challenges of cybercrime.

- **Operations conducted by the Rajasthan Police to prevent cyber fraud:** Operation Mule Account and POS, Operation Cyber Shield, Operation Antivirus, and Operation Vajra Prahar.

- **Rajasthan's First Cyber Support Center:** On May 24, 2025, Rajasthan's first Cyber Support Center was inaugurated in the Jaipur Police Commissionerate. This cyber support center is being operated by Responsible Netizens and the COGTA Foundation.

- **Rajasthan Cyber Crime Control Center (R4C):** The Rajasthan Cyber Crime Control Center (R4C) is being established to control and prevent cyber crimes in the state.

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Facts for Prelims:

■ **The Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RALSA) was constituted by the Rajasthan Government through a notification issued on July 7, 1998.**

■ **Executive Chairman of the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority:** Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma.

■ **Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority:** Justice Vikram Nath.
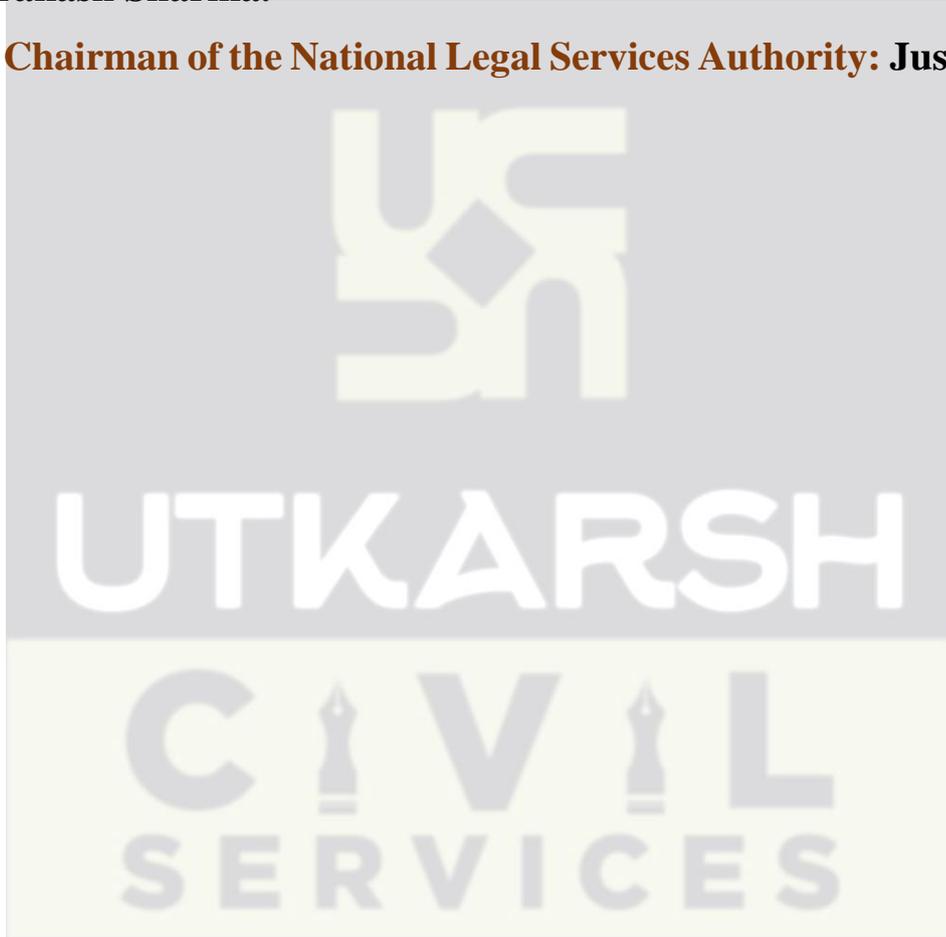
Status of the Prime Minister's Higher Education Scheme (PM-UShA) in Rajasthan

📢 **Why in News?**

- Under the **Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-UShA)** in Rajasthan, the central government has approved 34 projects for four state-funded universities and 30 government colleges, with a total cost of ₹330 crore.

📌 **Key Points:**

- **Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur** was the first university to be selected under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-UShA).

Selected universities in Rajasthan under this mission:

- Govind Guru Tribal University, Banswara

- Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner

- Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur

- Mugniram Bangur Memorial University, Jodhpur

- **Note:** Under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) 1.0 and 2.0, a total of 130 projects have been approved in 5 universities and 116 colleges in Rajasthan, with a total cost of ₹611 crore.

Selected universities in Rajasthan under RUSA:

■ Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

■ Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur.

■ University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

■ Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer.

■ University of Kota, Kota.

Facts for Prelims:

■ Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) 1.0 and 2.0 were centrally sponsored campaigns launched in 2013 and 2018, respectively.

■ These campaigns were restructured and launched as the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-UShA) in June 2023, under the National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020.

■ The PM-UShA campaign covers government and government-aided institutions in states/union territories.

Successful Test of the 'Strela 10M Air Defense System'

📢 **Why in News?**

■ Recently, the Indian Army's Konark Corps successfully tested the 'Strela 10M Air Defense System' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range.

Strela-10M Air Defense System

📌 **Key Points:**

■ The Strela-10M (9K35 Strela-10) is a Soviet-developed highly maneuverable and short-range surface-to-air missile system.

■ It is primarily designed to destroy low-flying threats such as helicopters, fighter aircraft, and drones.

■ The system uses infrared seeker technology. It detects heat from the engine of an aircraft or drone, destroying it mid-air.

■ The system is deployed on the MT-LB tracked armored vehicle, allowing it to easily maneuver in difficult terrain, such as desert dunes and rough terrain.

- **Range:** Its effective range is 5 to 10 kilometers and it can engage targets at altitudes up to 3,500 meters.

- **Missile speed:** Mach 2 (approximately 550 meters/second).

Facts for Prelims:

Military Exercise Vajra Ghat:

- Recently, the Indian Army conducted the military exercise Vajra Ghat at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, demonstrating the operational readiness and combat capability of the K9 Vajra Self-Propelled Artillery Gun System in desert warfare conditions.

- The main objective of this military exercise was to identify sophisticated tactics, techniques, and procedures to enhance defensive capability and operational efficiency on the battlefield.

✂️ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	**Raj Singh Jodha: Bronze Medal at National Cycling Championship** ■ Raj Singh Jodha won the bronze medal at the National Cycling Championship organized by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and the Cycling Federation of India (CFI) in Hyderabad.
2.	**Dr. D.P. Sharma: Appointed Lead Author for UNESCO** ■ Jaipur resident Dr. D.P. Sharma has been appointed lead author on the topic "Digital Divide between Public and Private Sectors in Scientific and Technological Innovation" for UNESCO's "Science and Innovation" report. ■ Computer scientist and digital diplomacy expert Dr. D.P. Sharma will lead a detailed study on the comparative landscape of scientific and technological innovation. ■ This high-level report will analyze the coordination, challenges, and potential for international cooperation between the technological infrastructures of the public and private sectors.
3.	**Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice (SPUP), Jodhpur** ■ Recently, Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Bagde visited the Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice in Jodhpur. ■ The Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice (SPUP) is a specialized state university. It was established by the Government of Rajasthan in 2012 to promote teaching and research in the fields of police science, security, and criminal justice.

■ The university's primary focus is on subjects such as police administration, law, criminology, cybersecurity, and national security.

■ The institute also conducts research and training in collaboration with organizations such as the Indian Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

4.	**State-level camps for Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (DNT) communities**

■ Identity cards were issued to 12,455 individuals from the Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (DNT) community in camps held from January 12 to February 15, 2026, across all districts of Rajasthan.

■ The highest number of identity cards were issued in the state: 1,884 in Sri Ganganagar district, 1,286 in Pali, 1,263 in Bikaner, 1,006 in Ajmer, and 969 in Alwar.

5.	**First Post Office Based on a Gen-Z Theme**

■ The first post office in Rajasthan based on a Gen-Z theme has been opened at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur.

■ Designed by students of IIT Jodhpur, it blends ancient traditions and modern technology. Keeping in mind the preferences of the youth, coffee vending machines, mini libraries, seating areas and a dedicated philately (stamp collection) wall have been created here.

🏛️ NATIONAL 📰

ECI Sports Week, 2026

📢 **Why in News?**

■ The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched its annual Sports Week 2026 celebrations, at the Commonwealth Games Sports (CWG) Complex in Delhi.

■ Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the women's 100-meter race under the theme "Run for Democracy."

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Event:** February 16 to 21, 2026.

■ **Theme:** "Harmony on the field, Strength in Democracy."

■ **Organizer:** Recreation Club

■ **Participants:** 383 participants, including 72 women.

■ **Sports and Events:** Competitions will be held in 43 categories across 7 sports, including chess, carrom, table tennis, badminton, cricket, football and athletics track events (100, 200, 400 and 800 metres race events for men and women in different age groups).

⚓ History and Culture 🗿

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Birth Anniversary

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **The Union Home Minister paid tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, on his birth anniversary (February 19) and established Hindavi Swaraj.**

📌 **Key Points:**

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:

■ **Born:** February 19, 1630, at Shivneri Fort, Pune, Maharashtra.

■ **Early Life:** First displayed his military prowess in 1645, successfully capturing Torna Fort and Kondana Fort under Bijapur.

■ **Titles:** Chhatrapati, Shakyakarta, Kshatriya Kulwant, and Haindev Dharmodhhak.

■ **Death:** April 3, 1680

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■ **Major Battles Fought by Shivaji Maharaj:**

Battles	Description
Battle of Pratapgarh, 1659: Pratapgarh, Satara City, Maharashtra	Between the armies of Shivaji and the Adilshahi commander Afzal Khan. Shivaji killed Afzal Khan using a tiger claw in 1659.
Battle of Pawan Khind, 1660: Vishalgad Fort, Kolhapur	Between the Maratha chieftain Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Siddi Masood of the Adilshahi.
Battle of Surat, 1664: Surat, Gujarat	Between Shivaji and the Mughal captain Inayat Khan.
Battle of Purandar, 1665	Between the Mughal and Maratha Empires.
Battle of Sinhagad, 1670: Sinhagad, Maharashtra	Between Shivaji Maharaj's general Tanaji Malusare and Udaybhan Rathore, a fortified officer under Jai Singh I.
Battle of Kalyan, 1682-83	Bahadur Khan of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and captured Kalyan.
Battle of Sangamner, 1679	Shivaji's last battle, between the Mughal and Maratha Empires.

■ **Central Administration:**

o **Style of administration: Deccan style.**

o **Most administrative reforms: Inspired by the reforms of Malik Ambar in Ahmednagar.**

o **Supreme head of the state: King.**

o **Ashtapradhan: The king was assisted by a group of eight ministers.**

    1. **Peshwa (Prime Minister)**

    2. **Amatya/Majumdar (Finance Minister)**

    3. **Waqia-Navis/Mantri (Information/Home Minister)**

    4. **Sachiv/Shrunavis/Chitnis (Correspondence)**

    5. **Sumant/Dabir (Foreign Minister)**

    6. **Senapati/Sar-e-Naubat (Defense Minister)**

    7. **Panditrao/Sadar (Chairman of the Exchequer)**

    8. **Judges**

■ **Revenue Administration:**

o **Ryotwari System:** Shivaji abolished the Jagirdari system and replaced it with the Ryotwari system and changed the status of hereditary revenue officials known as Deshmukh, Deshpande, Patil, and Kulkarni.

o **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi:** Chauth was one-fourth of the total revenue collected from non-Maratha areas in exchange for protection from Maratha attacks, and Sardeshmukhi was 10 percent of the revenue, which was levied as an additional tax.

Other important points:

■ **Maratha Military Landscape:** The Maratha Military Landscape of India (12 forts) i.e. 'Maratha Military Forts' has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as India's 44th UNESCO Heritage Site.

■ **Forts included:** Shivneri Hill Fort, Rajgad Hill Fort (first political base of Hind Swaraj), Raigad Hill (second capital and site of the Golden Throne), Vijaydurg Coastal Fort (Gibraltar of the East), Khanderi Island Fort, Sindhudurg Island Fort and Suvarnadurg etc.

मराठा मिलिट्री लैंडस्केप के किले

🏛️ Sociology 🏛️

World Day of Social Justice, 2026

📢 **Why in News?**

- In 2026, World Day of Social Justice was celebrated under the theme "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice."
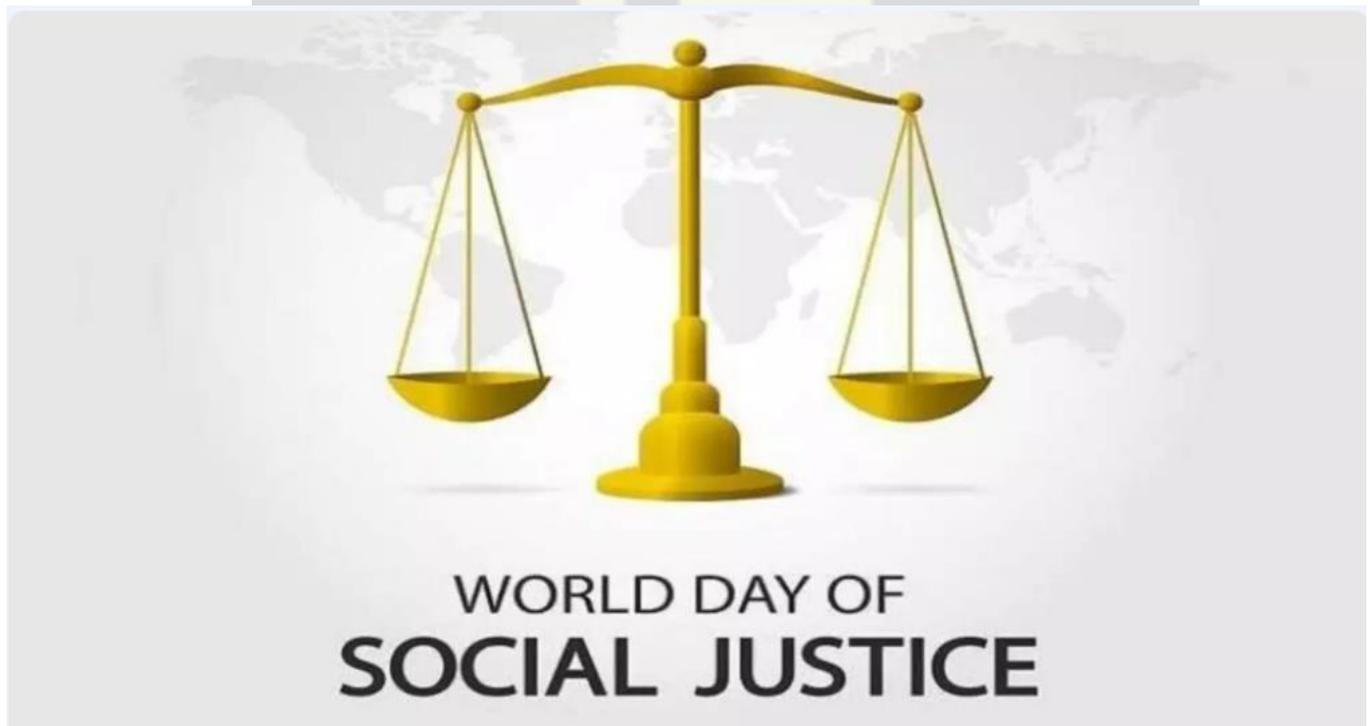
📌 **Key Points:**

- **Introduction:** Social justice is the fair and equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges in society.

- **Background:** The International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on June 10, 2008.

- It builds on the Philadelphia Declaration of 1944, the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995, and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998.

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■ **Establishment:** On November 26, 2007, the General Assembly declared that February 20 would be celebrated annually as the World Day of Social Justice. The first observance was in 2009.

■ The International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously adopted the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on June 10, 2008.

■ **Theme for the year 2026:** "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice".

■ **Nodal Ministry in India:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (1985-86).

■ **Pillars of Social Justice:**

Pillars of Social Justice

Participation
Enabling involvement in political, economic, and social life

Access
Ensuring resources and opportunities for all

Rights
Protecting human rights for everyone

Equity
Recognizing diverse needs and circumstances

Diversity
Valuing and respecting differences
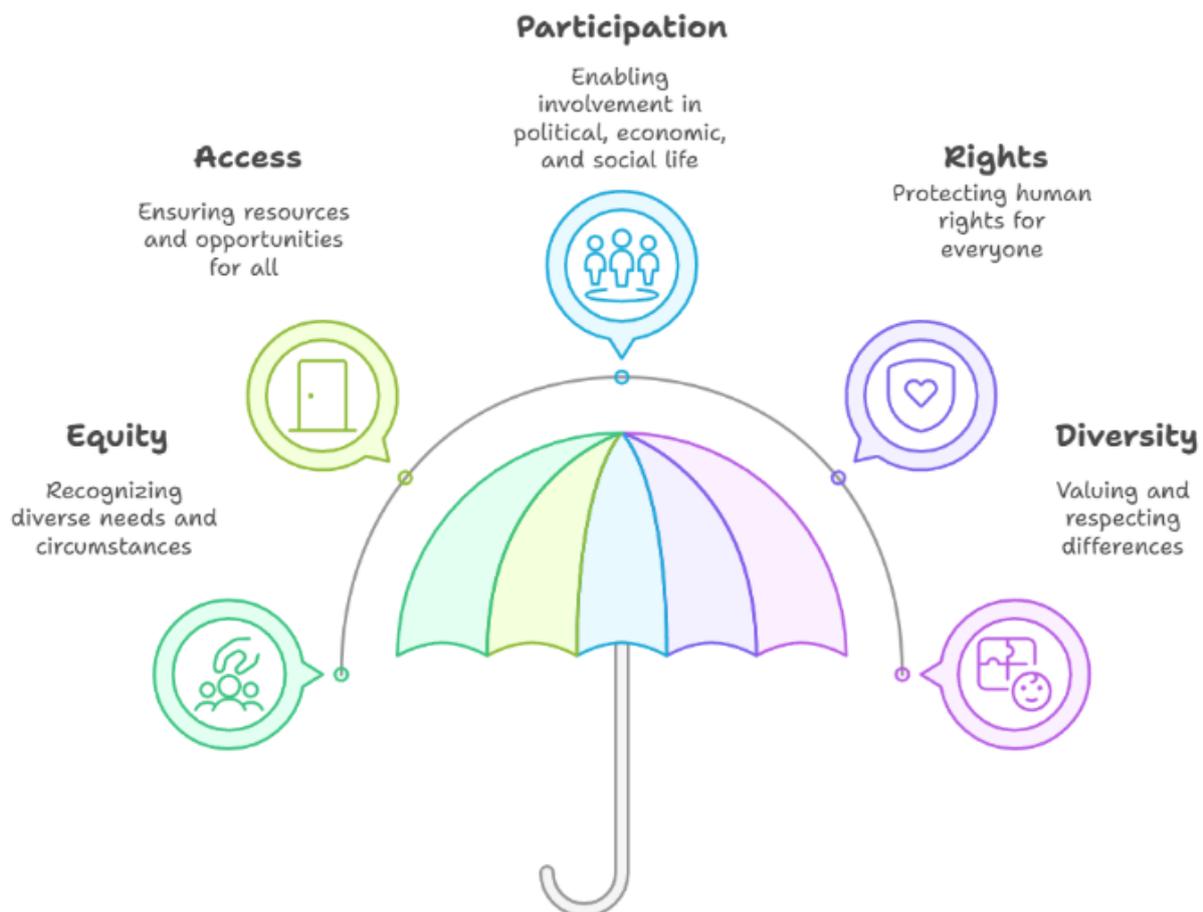
■ **SDG Alignment:** Directly supports SDG 1 (poverty eradication), SDG 8 (sustainable, inclusive economic growth, full employment and decent work for all), SDG 10 (reduction of inequalities).

■ **Social Justice in the Constitution of India:**

o **Preamble:** It ensures social, economic and political justice.

o **Fundamental Rights:** Article 23 (prohibition of human trafficking and forced labour) and Article 24 (prohibition of child labour in hazardous occupations).

o **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Article 38 (reduction of social and economic inequalities), Article 39 (equal livelihood, fair wages and protection from exploitation), Article 39A (guarantee of free legal aid) and Article 46 (special educational and economic incentives for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections).

🌍 INTERNATIONAL 🌐 🕊️

Board of Peace

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **India participated as an observer country in the meeting of the Board of Peace on Gaza, formed by Donald Trump.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Established: January 2026**

■ **Origin: It originates from US President Trump's ''20-Point Peace Plan for Gaza.''**

　o **This plan was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council through Resolution 2803.**

■ **Objective: To transform Gaza into a demilitarized and economically stable zone.**

■ **Membership: It is chaired by the US President. It has an Executive Board of selected global leaders. Its membership is invitation-based.**

　o **It includes permanent members with fixed tenures and paying fees.**

India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **India and the United Kingdom launched the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Formation: To provide strategic leadership and coordination for the development of the offshore wind energy ecosystem in India, under Vision 2035 and the Fourth India-UK Energy Dialogue.**

■ **Objective: To intensify cooperation on offshore wind energy projects under the Clean Energy Partnership.**

■ **Key Areas: Ecosystem planning, market structure, seabed leasing framework and revenue certainty mechanisms.**

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🌱 ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY 🌱

Report on Soil Health Degradation in India

📢 **Why in News?**

■ This report was released by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

■ Title of the report: 'Soil Remediation in India: For Improved Crop Health and Human Nutrition'.

📌 **Key Points:**

Primary Causes of Soil Degradation

■ **Distorted Fertilizer Policy:** Highly subsidized urea (a source of nitrogen) receives over 80% subsidy, while subsidies for phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are significantly lower. This price difference encourages farmers to overuse nitrogen.

■ **Faulty Agricultural Practices:** Intensive tillage, prolonged waterlogging in paddy cultivation, heavy reliance on single-crop farming/monocropping, and burning of crop residues deplete the soil's natural carbon and damage its structure.

■ **Widespread Soil Erosion:** Approximately 5.3 billion tons of topsoil is lost annually in India due to water and wind erosion. This leads to the loss of 5.4–8.4 million tons of primary nutrients annually.

Soil Health Status in India

- **Nitrogen Deficiency:** Nearly 95% of Indian soils lack sufficient nitrogen, the most important primary nutrient for plant growth.

- **Low Organic Carbon:** 75% of Indian soils have soil organic carbon levels below the minimum required limit of 0.75%. This carbon deficiency weakens soil fertility and water-holding capacity.

- **Phosphorus and Potassium Deficiency:** Only 45% of soils have adequate phosphorus. Only 32% of soils have adequate potassium levels.

- **Micronutrient Deficiency:** Nearly half of India's soils are severely deficient in essential micronutrients such as sulfur, boron, and zinc.

⏳ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡️

VoicERA and Bhashini

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **VoicERA was launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, on the Bhashini National Language Infrastructure.**

📌 **Key Points:**

VoicERA

■ **It is an open-source, end-to-end voice AI stack.**

■ **Developer: Digital India Bhashini Division.**

o **This division operates under the Digital India Corporation of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**

■ **Function: To serve as a national implementation platform for multilingual voice and language AI.**

o **It will expand Bhashini's capabilities beyond translation and language technologies to real-time speech systems, conversation-based AI, and multilingual telephony for more people.**

Bhashini

■ **BHASHINI is an AI-powered language translation platform. It increases workforce participation (especially in non-English speaking regions) by bridging literacy, language, and digital gaps.**

■ **Objective: To make language and technology accessible to all.**

Gas Turbine Engine

📢 **Why in News?**

- The Defence Minister visited DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment in Bengaluru and reviewed ongoing indigenous military gas turbine projects, including afterburner testing of the Kaveri engine.

📌 **Key Points:**

Gas Turbine Engine

- A gas-turbine engine is an internal combustion engine that uses air and fuel to generate electricity by rotating a turbine.

- It consists of a compressor, combustion chamber, and turbine, where air is compressed, fuel is burned at constant pressure, and excess air cools the gases before reaching the turbine.

- Gas turbines are used in aviation (jet propulsion), electrical power generation, and to drive compressors for pipelines.

- The first successful gas turbine was built in Paris in 1903.
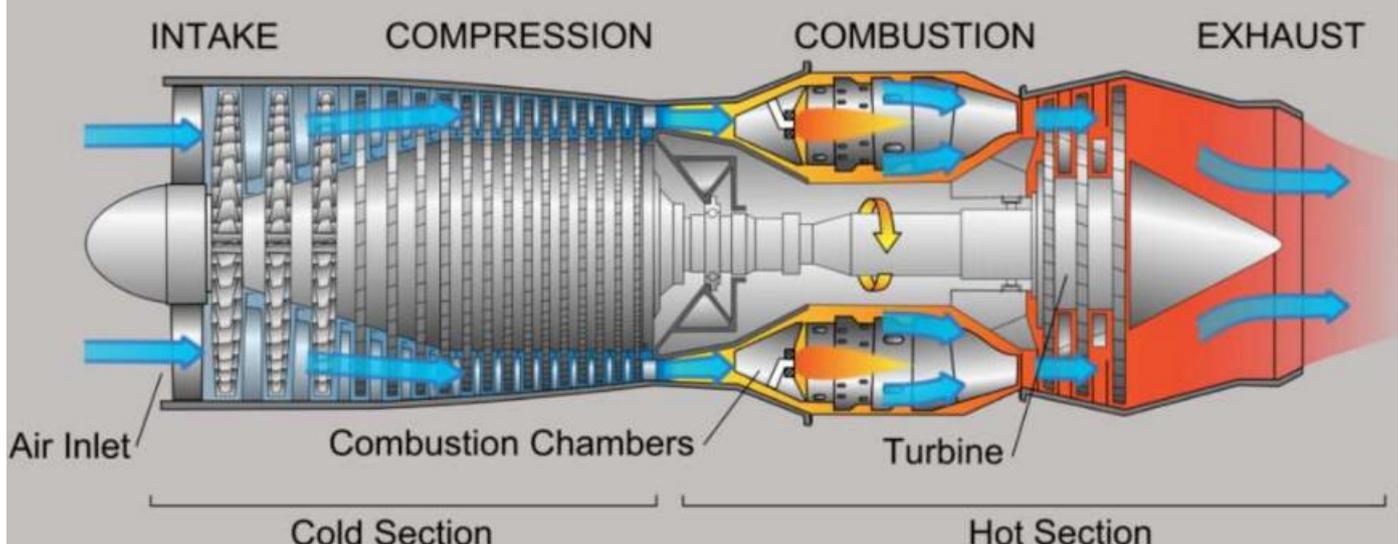
Bharat GI

📢 **Why in News?**

■ The 'Bharat GI' was recently unveiled at the India AI Impact Summit.

📌 **Key Points:**

Bharat GI

■ It is a major national initiative to showcase India's Unique Geographical Indication (GI) products globally.

■ **Initiator:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Bio-AI Mulankur

📢 **Why in News?**

■ Recently, the Union Minister of Science and Technology announced that the government will establish "Bio-AI Mulankur Hubs."

📌 **Key Points:**

Bio-AI Mulankur Hubs

■ **Objective:** To develop integrated and closed-loop research platforms where AI-based predictions and laboratory validation work together in a single framework.

■ **Key sectors:** Genomics diagnostics, biomolecular design, synthetic biology, Ayurveda-based research.

o All these are in line with the Bio E3 (Biotechnology for Environment, Economy and Employment) policy.

■ **Implementing Agency:** Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Government of India.

Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (TD) Vaccine

📢 **Why in News?**

■ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (TD) Vaccine on February 21, 2026, at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

Launch of Tetanus & Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine

at

Central Research Institute, Kasauli
On 21st February 2026

by

Sh. Jagat Prakash Nadda
Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers
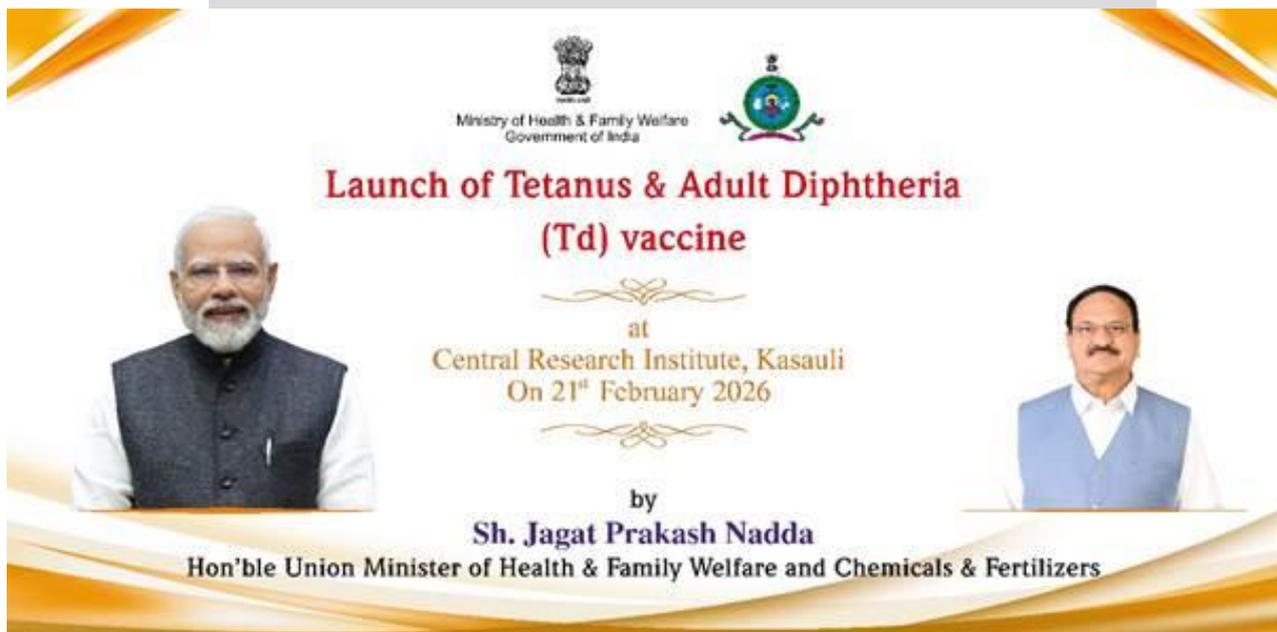
📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Need:** Widespread vaccination of children with DPT group vaccines has significantly reduced diphtheria and tetanus cases in many countries. However, antibody levels may decline over time, especially in diphtheria cases, necessitating a booster dose. In light of this, in 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that countries transition from the tetanus toxoid (TT) vaccine to the DT vaccine.

■ The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has also recommended transitioning from the TT vaccine to the TD vaccine in India's immunization program for all ages, including pregnant women.

■ **Objective:** The introduction of the Td vaccine aims to strengthen protection in adolescents and adults and reduce morbidity and mortality associated with vaccine-preventable diseases.

■ **Commercial Production:** Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh

■ **Supply:** Following the launch of the DT vaccine, CRI will supply 5.5 million doses to the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) by April 2026.

■ **Vaccine Composition:** The Td vaccine (Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria Vaccine – Absorbed, Reduced D-antigen Material) provides protection against both tetanus and diphtheria. It is made by combining purified diphtheria toxoid and purified tetanus toxoid. The antigens are adsorbed onto aluminum phosphate, which acts as an adjuvant, and thiomersal is added as a preservative.

Other important points:

■ **TD vaccine:** The tetanus-diphtheria (TD) vaccine is an injection that provides protection against two diseases – tetanus and diphtheria. It is usually used as a booster shot to provide continued protection after the initial vaccination in childhood.

Diphtheria	Tetanus
is an infectious bacterial disease. It causes a thick, crusty coating to form in the throat, which can obstruct breathing. Complications of diphtheria include heart failure, paralysis, and even death.	Tetanus is a bacterial infection that can enter the body through a dirty wound or injury. Tetanus infection, sometimes called jaw stiffness, causes painful muscle stiffness throughout the body.

India AI Impact Summit 2026

📢 **Why in News?**

- **The India AI Impact Summit 2026, was held from February 16 to 20, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It is the first major global artificial intelligence (AI) conference held in the Global South.**

📌 **Key Points:**

- **Organizer: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

- **Theme and Philosophical Foundation: Based on the ideal of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (welfare of all and happiness of all).**

- **Upcoming Events: Switzerland will host the AI Impact Summit 2027 in Geneva, and the 2028 Summit will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates.**
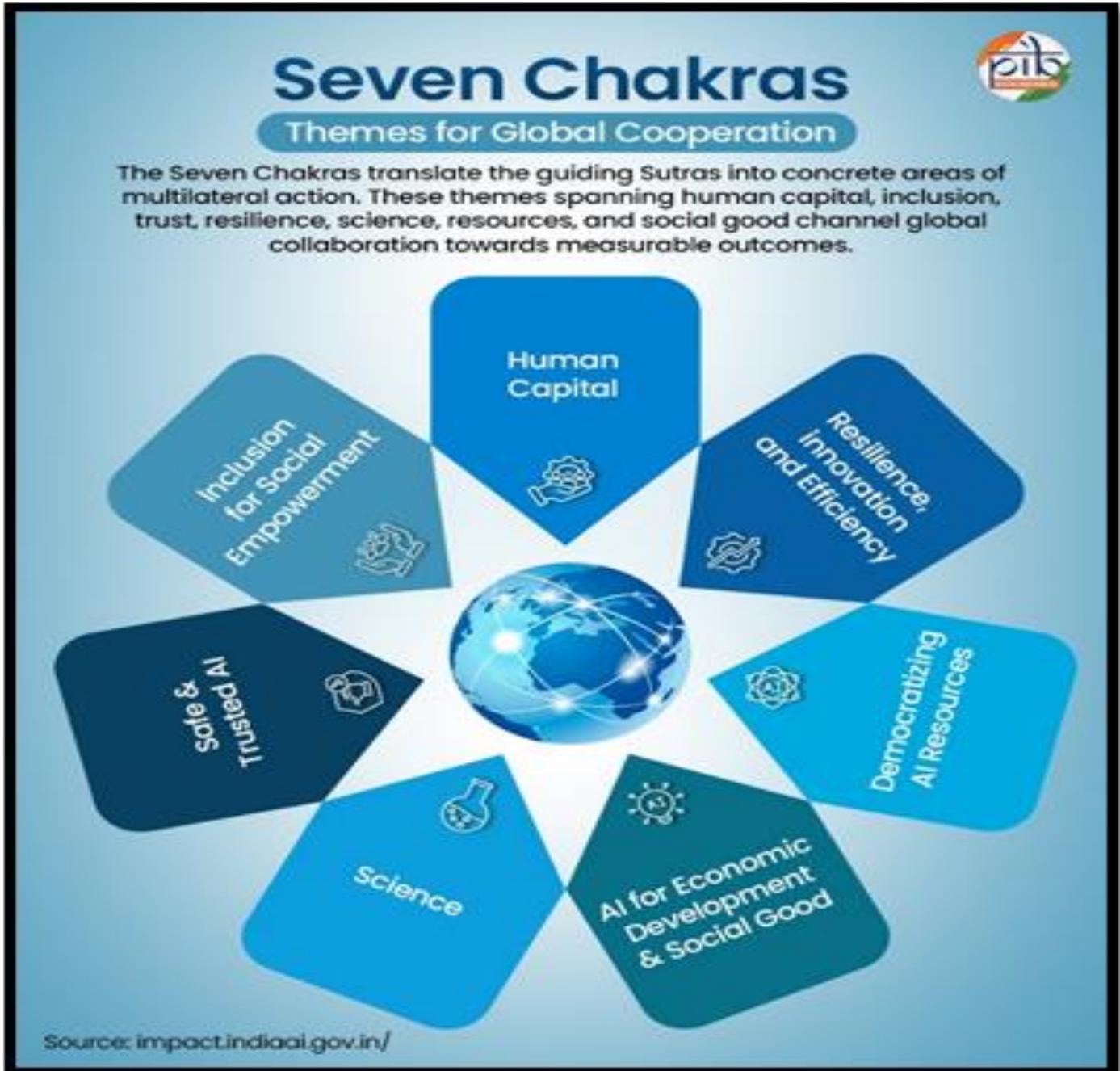
■ **Three Pillars:** The India AI Impact Summit 2026, is guided by three fundamental pillars. These pillars outline the basic principles guiding global cooperation in AI.

1. **People:** Promote human-centered AI that upholds rights, enhances access to services, builds trust, and ensures equitable benefits across societies.

2. **Planet:** Advance environmentally sustainable AI by promoting energy-efficient systems, responsible resource use, climate action, and environmental resilience.

3. **Progress:** Support inclusive economic and technological development through innovation, capacity building, and the use of AI to enhance productivity, progress, and development outcomes.

■ **Seven Circles (Working Groups):**

Seven Chakras
Themes for Global Cooperation

The Seven Chakras translate the guiding Sutras into concrete areas of multilateral action. These themes spanning human capital, inclusion, trust, resilience, science, resources, and social good channel global collaboration towards measurable outcomes.

Human Capital

Inclusion for Social Empowerment

Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency

Safe & Trusted AI

Democratizing AI Resources

Science

AI for Economic Development & Social Good

Source: impact.indiaai.gov.in/

1. **Human Capital:** This cycle focuses on building an equitable AI reskilling ecosystem through targeted skills development.

2. **Inclusion for Social Empowerment:** This cycle focuses on ensuring inclusive participation through shared AI solutions and scalable models.

3. **Safe and Trusted AI:** This cycle focuses on translating global principles of responsible AI into practical and interoperable safety and governance frameworks.

4. **Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency:** This cycle focuses on addressing the environmental and resource challenges posed by large-scale AI systems that could exacerbate the global AI divide.

5. **Science:** This cycle focuses on addressing the environmental and resource challenges posed by large-scale AI systems that could exacerbate the global AI divide.

6. **Democratization of AI Resources:** This cycle envisions a global AI ecosystem where everyone has equitable and affordable access to the fundamental tools for AI development.

7. **AI for Economic Growth and Social Well-Being:** This round explores ways to harness the potential of AI for truly inclusive development, as well as identify and support high-impact use cases that can serve as role models of AI for both economic progress and social good.

■ **Three Global Impact Challenges:** Key highlights of the Summit include three Global Impact Challenges—AI for ALL, AI by HER, and YUVAi—as follows:

1. **AI for ALL:** The Global Impact Challenge aims to identify AI solutions with large-scale impact. It is being implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Digital India Language Division, in partnership with Startup India.

2. **AI by HER:** The Global Impact Challenge aims to foster women-led innovation in AI. It is being organized in collaboration with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog. 3. YUVAi: The Global Youth Challenge aims to encourage young innovators to develop AI solutions to address real problems. This challenge, open to youth aged 13–21, is being conducted in collaboration with My India and the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology.

■   **Results:**

1.   **550 conferences and events were organized in 30 countries prior to the summit.**

2.   **Youth participation helped India set a Guinness World Record with over 2.5 million AI responsibility pledges in 24 hours.**

3.   **Infrastructure investment pledges have surpassed $250 billion, with deep-tech venture commitments totaling nearly $20 billion.**

4.   **India's Human Vision for Artificial Intelligence (MANAV):** The Prime Minister of India presented the MANAV Vision at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, outlining India's human-centric approach to artificial intelligence governance.

■ **It is an acronym for five fundamental pillars:**

i. **M – Ethical and Ethical Systems:** The development of artificial intelligence should be strictly based on ethical guidelines.

ii. **A – Accountable Governance:** Ensuring transparent rules and robust oversight mechanisms.

iii. **N – National Sovereignty:** Reinforcing the principle that data belongs to those who generate it.

iv. **A – Accessible and Inclusive:** AI should act as a multiplier for societal benefits, not as a monopoly concentrated in a few hands.

v. **V – Lawful and Legal Systems:** AI systems and their applications should be lawful, verifiable, and trustworthy.

5. **Pax Silica Initiative:** On the fifth day of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, India formally joined the Pax Silica alliance, a significant milestone towards strengthening strategic technology and supply chain cooperation between India and the United States.

o **Launch:** This is a US-led strategic initiative launched in December 2025, to build a secure, resilient, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain.

o **Objective:** To reduce China's dominance and counter coercive dependency in critical minerals, energy sources, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, AI infrastructure, and logistics.

o **Members:** Pax Silica's member countries included Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, the Republic of South Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

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Other Key Points:

Current AI Ecosystem in India:

■ More than 6 million people are employed in the technology and AI ecosystem. It is estimated that the AI-skilled workforce in India will exceed 1.25 million by 2027, reflecting strong demand in the fields of data science, AI engineering, and analytics.

■ There are approximately 1.8 lakh startups in the country, and approximately 89% of new startups launched last year used AI in their products or services.

■ India scores 2.45/4 on the NASSCOM AI Adoption Index, indicating that 87% of enterprises are actively using AI solutions.

■ Leading sectors in AI adoption are: industrial and automotive, consumer goods and retail, banking, financial services and insurance, and healthcare. Together, these sectors contribute approximately 60% of the total value of AI.