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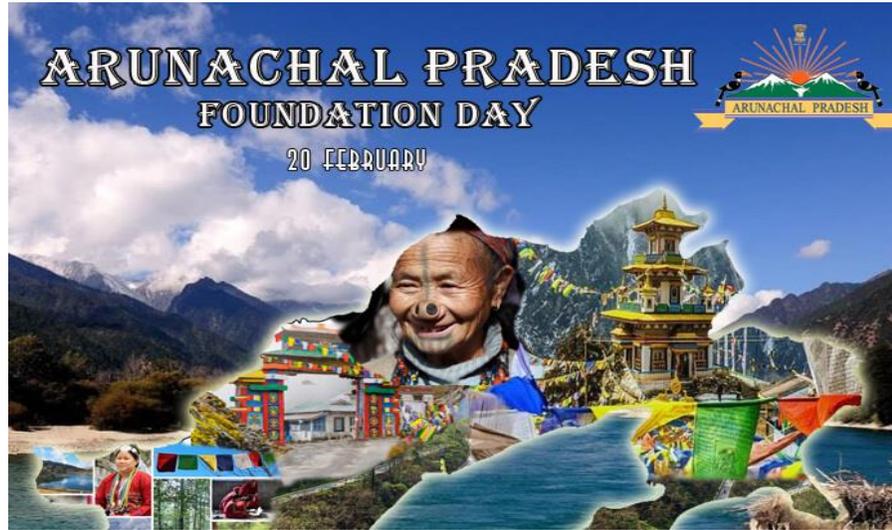
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Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day



- Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day is observed on 20 February to mark the granting of statehood to Arunachal Pradesh in 1987.
- This day marks the formation of Arunachal Pradesh as the 24th state of India.

The journey toward statehood was shaped by several key events:

- 1826: The Treaty of Yandaboo brought the region under British control after the First Anglo-Burmese War.
- 1838: The North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) was established for administrative purposes.
- 1914: The Shimla Treaty defined the boundary between Tibet and NEFA, with recognition from China, Tibet, and British rulers. In 1914, the McMahon Line was drawn between British India and Tibet, later becoming a major factor in the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
- 1947: After India's independence, NEFA was placed under the administration of Assam.
- 1972: NEFA was officially renamed Arunachal Pradesh and granted the status of a Union Territory.

- 1987: Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India under the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, enacted through the 55th Constitutional Amendment.

About Arunachal Pradesh:

- The state is referred to as the “Land of the Rising Sun,” Arunachal Pradesh is the first region in India to receive sunlight. Located in the northeastern part of the country.
- The North-Eastern region is popularly known as the Seven Sisters, a term referring to seven contiguous states of the region (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura).
- Arunachal Pradesh holds strategic relevance due to its location near sensitive international boundaries.
- It shares international borders with China, Bhutan and Myanmar, and domestic borders with Assam and Nagaland.
- Arunachal Pradesh is the largest northeastern state, covering an area of 83,743 square kilometers.
- Arunachal Pradesh is the least densely populated state in India, with a population density of only 17 people per square kilometre, according to 2011 Census data.
- Capital: Itanagar
- Chief Minister: Pema Khandu
- Governor: Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
- National Parks: Namdapha National Park, Mouling National Park.

Pankaj Advani Wins Inaugural Liber Win Champions Cup 2026



- In February 2026, Pankaj Advani won the inaugural Liber Win Champions Cup 2026 by defeating Kamal Chawla 6–3 in a best-of-11 final.
- The final was held at the Karnataka State Billiards Association in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Pankaj Advani is an Indian billiards and snooker player as well as a Padma awardee.
- After the victory, Pankaj Advani was appointed as Liber Win’s Indian Brand Ambassador.
- He joined global cue sports stars Ronnie O’Sullivan, John Higgins, Mark Selby and Shaun Murphy as part of the brand’s ambassador lineup.
- The Liber Win Champions Cup 2026 is a professional invitational snooker tournament sponsored by Liber Win Cloth.
- The tournament aims to feature top cue sport players, promote elite-level competition, and support the growth of cue sports in India.
- The three-day event included 16 leading professional cueists.

Exercise MILAN 2026 Inaugurated in Visakhapatnam



- Exercise MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.
- The 13th edition, MILAN-2026, was inaugurated by Rajnath Singh at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The exercise witnessed participation from 74 nations, making it the largest and most inclusive edition in its history.
- It began in 1995 as a modest regional initiative to enhance cooperation among friendly navies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Over the years, MILAN has evolved into one of the world's prominent naval engagements, expanding from a few regional participants to dozens of nations globally.
- The 2026 edition is being conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam, India's strategic naval hub on the eastern seaboard.
- The expanded scope of MILAN-2026 includes complex naval drills, coordinated maritime operations, and professional exchanges among participating navies.

- The unprecedented participation reflects global trust in India as a responsible and reliable maritime partner.
- The exercise strengthens interoperability among navies, enabling seamless joint operations during maritime missions and crises.
- Through coordinated drills, communication exercises, and joint operations, nations enhance collective response capabilities to maritime threats.
- MILAN promotes professional competence by facilitating the exchange of best practices, tactical doctrines, and operational experiences.
- The exercise enhances maritime security cooperation to address challenges such as piracy, illegal fishing, maritime terrorism, human trafficking, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises.
- It prepares participating navies for coordinated Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- India's maritime policy is guided by principles such as Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), freedom of navigation, and respect for international law, especially UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea).
- By hosting MILAN, India reinforces its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region and strengthens its strategic outreach in the Indo-Pacific.
- Visakhapatnam, known as the "Jewel of the East Coast," holds strategic importance due to its location along the Bay of Bengal, the presence of the Eastern Naval Command, and major naval dockyards and shipbuilding facilities.
- Conducting MILAN-2026 at Visakhapatnam underscores India's eastern maritime focus and its growing strategic attention to the Indo-Pacific region, a key center of global geopolitical and economic activity.

Uttar Pradesh Government and IOCL Sign MoU for International Cricket Stadium in Gorakhpur

- In February 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Indian Oil Corporation Limited signed an MoU to construct a proposed International Cricket Stadium in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- The agreement was formalised in Lucknow in the presence of Yogi Adityanath.
- The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 339 crore.
- The stadium is planned with a seating capacity of 30,000 spectators.
- It will feature international-standard facilities including quality pitches, dedicated practice areas, floodlights, modern dressing rooms, and media infrastructure.
- The oil sector has committed a total financial support of Rs. 100 crore for the project.
- Out of this amount, Rs. 60 crore will be contributed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited under its CSR initiative.
- Rs. 30 crore will be provided by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Rs. 10 crore by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.
- The project is targeted for completion by December 2027.



Tata Group and OpenAI Partner to Build India's 1st Large-Scale AI Data Centre

- In February 2026, Tata Group partnered with OpenAI to establish India's first large-scale AI-ready data centre under the global Stargate initiative.
- OpenAI became the first customer of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) HyperVault data centre business.
- The TCS HyperVault unit will initially host AI-ready systems with a capacity of 100 megawatts (MW), scalable up to 1 gigawatt (GW).
- The facility will be powered by green energy and equipped with AI-optimised hardware to support large-scale training and inference workloads.
- TCS plans to invest up to USD 7 billion to build 1 GW data centre capacity in India as part of the USD 500 billion Stargate global initiative.
- Tata Group intends to deploy ChatGPT Enterprise, offered by OpenAI, across its organisation in phases, initially covering hundreds of thousands of employees.
- OpenAI will expand its certification programme in India, with TCS becoming the first participating organisation outside the United States.
- OpenAI plans to establish offices in Mumbai, Maharashtra and Bengaluru, Karnataka in 2026.



International Mother Language Day



- Every year on 21 February, International Mother Language Day is celebrated worldwide to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- The day aims to create awareness about the importance of preserving mother languages across the globe.
- UNESCO declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day in 1999, and it has been observed globally since 2000.
- The observance commemorates the Language Movement in Bangladesh following the 1947 partition of Pakistan into East Pakistan and West Pakistan.
- In 1948, the government of Pakistan declared Urdu as the sole national language, although the majority of the population spoke Bengali (Bangla).
- On 23 February 1948, Dhirendranath Datta raised the demand to recognize Bengali as one of the national languages.

- The government banned public meetings and rallies to suppress the protests in East Pakistan.
- On 21 February 1952, students of the University of Dhaka organized demonstrations, during which police opened fire, killing three people and injuring many others.
- The martyrs are commemorated at the Shaheed Minar in Bangladesh, where the day is observed as a national holiday.
- The idea for international recognition was proposed by Rafiqul Islam and Abdus Salam, who wrote to Kofi Annan in January 1998.
- The Government of Bangladesh formally submitted the proposal to UNESCO, with support from Syed Muazzem Ali and Tozammel Tony Huq.
- On 17 November 1999, UNESCO's 30th General Conference unanimously proclaimed 21 February as International Mother Language Day in memory of the 1952 language martyrs.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs organized a two-day National Chintan Shivir at Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar



- Ministry of Minority Affairs conducted a two-day National ‘Chintan Shivir’ at Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar, bringing together Union and State Ministers, senior officials, and domain experts to prepare a policy roadmap for minority welfare and socio-economic empowerment.
- The Ministry presented achievements under PMJVK, PMVIKAS, NMDFC, UMEED Central Portal, Haj Modernization, and digital initiatives aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the NIGRANI App under PMJVK to address infrastructure gaps and strengthen monitoring.
- He also introduced the Haj Wrist Band and AI Chatbots to enhance digital services for pilgrims.
- The deliberations focused on improving Centre–State coordination, stakeholder participation, and effective grassroots implementation of schemes.

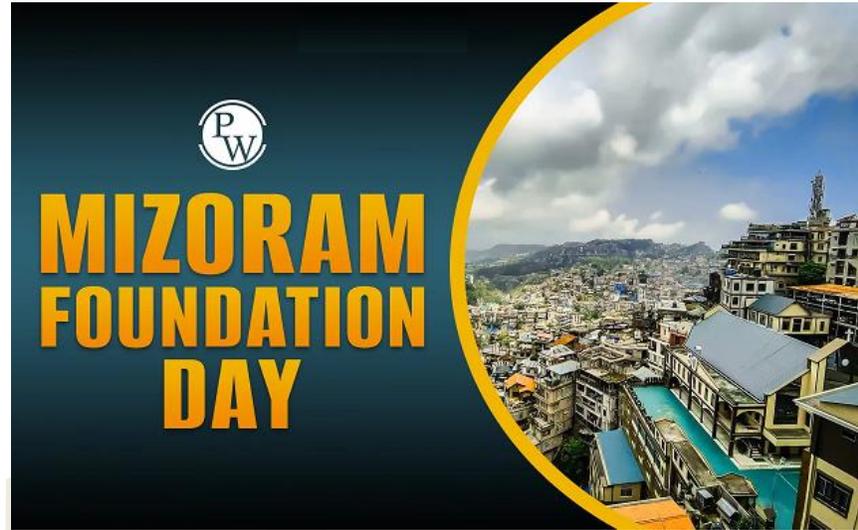
- Union MoS George Kurian stated that PMJVK has significantly contributed to infrastructure development in minority-concentrated areas, while PMVIKAS, NMDFC, UMEED, and Haj initiatives support socio-economic progress.
- The Shivir promoted citizen participation through Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishvaas, Sabka Prayaas, and emphasized Reform, Perform, Transform, Inform through Jan Bhaagidari and public-private-community partnerships.
- Representatives from Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura acknowledged the impact of PMJVK and PMVIKAS in bridging infrastructure and skilling gaps and supporting minority development.
- Focused Group Discussions were held on Infrastructure Development (PMJVK), Socio-economic Empowerment (PMVIKAS + NMDFC), Waqf Management, Haj Management, and Scholarship Schemes.
- The interactive sessions encouraged peer learning, collaborative problem-solving, consensus-building, and generated actionable inputs for future policy and programme improvements.

World Day of Social Justice - 20 February

- United Nations World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20 February across the globe to promote awareness about social justice issues such as poverty eradication, employment, gender equality, and equal access to education, healthcare, and social services.
- The 2026 theme is “Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice.”
- On 26 November 2007, the United Nations General Assembly during its 62nd session, declaring 20 February as World Day of Social Justice.
- The day was observed for the first time on 20 February 2009.
- On 20 February 2026, a commemorative meeting was hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN in collaboration with the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, United States of America
- In India, the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organized World Day of Social Justice 2026 in collaboration with National Law University, Dwarka, New Delhi.



Mizoram Foundation Day



- Mizoram Foundation Day 2026 will be celebrated on 20 February, marking 39 years of statehood since 20 February 1987.
- Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on 20 February 1987.
- Before statehood, Mizoram functioned as a Union Territory from 1972 after being separated from Assam.
- Statehood followed the signing of the historic Mizoram Accord in 1986 between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- The day is celebrated across the state, especially in Aizawl, with parades, cultural programs, and official ceremonies.
- 1946 saw the formation of the Mizo Common People's Union (later Mizo Union), initiating organized political awareness.
- The 1959–60 Mautam famine led to the formation of the Mizo National Famine Front, later renamed the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- In 1966, the MNF launched an armed uprising demanding sovereignty.
- The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 granted Mizoram Union Territory status in 1972.

- The 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986 paved the way for full statehood.
- The Mizoram Accord is regarded as one of India's most successful peace agreements.
- Statehood provided political recognition and administrative autonomy to the Mizo people.
- Since 1987, Mizoram has progressed significantly in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and tourism.
- The state has one of the highest literacy rates in India, exceeding 91 percent.

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