

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India AI Impact Summit 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, describing Artificial Intelligence as a transformative chapter in human history.
- The summit, themed “**Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya**” (Welfare for All, Happiness for All), aims to promote human-centric, inclusive, and responsible AI for global progress.
- The India AI Impact Summit 2026 brought together,
 - Representatives from 100+ countries
 - Over 20 Heads of State and Government
 - Around 60 Ministers and Vice Ministers
 - 500+ global AI leaders and CEOs
- At the summit, PM Modi unveiled India’s **M.A.N.A.V** framework for Artificial Intelligence governance.
 - M – Moral and Ethical Systems
 - A – Accountable Governance
 - N – National Sovereignty (Data ownership rights)
 - A – Accessible and Inclusive AI
 - V – Valid and Legitimate AI systems
- The summit is structured around three pillars People, Planet, and Progress.
- And seven working groups covering Economic Growth, Democratizing AI Resources, Social Inclusion, Safe and Trusted AI, Human Capital, Science, and Resilience.



Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti 2026

- Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti 2026 will be celebrated on 19 February 2026 (Thursday) across India, especially in Maharashtra, to honour Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born at Shivneri Fort to Shahajiraje Bhosale and Jijabai.
- His mother played a major role in shaping his values of bravery, discipline and devotion.
- He was crowned on 6 June 1674 at Raigad Fort and became the first Chhatrapati of the Maratha Empire.
- His reign from 1674 to 1680 established a strong, people-centric kingdom.
- Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti 2026 celebrates not only a warrior king but also a visionary ruler who built a disciplined administration and inspired generations.
- Shivaji Maharaj is known for pioneering guerrilla warfare, popularly called Ganimi Kava.
- He captured Torna Fort at the age of 16 and later built or strengthened over 300 forts including Raigad, Sinhagad, and Pratapgad.
- His strategic use of the Sahyadri mountains gave him a military advantage against powerful empires.



Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute

- India's human spaceflight programme has achieved a key milestone with the successful qualification level load test of Drogue Parachute for Gaganyaan programme at Rail Track Rocket Sled facility of DRDO at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh.
- RTRS is a specialized dynamic test facility being used extensively for high speed aerodynamic and ballistic evaluations.
- The test was conducted on February 18, 2026 with Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, ISRO, Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, DRDO alongside various TBRL's dedicated teams.
- The RTRS dynamic test, simulating qualification level loads which are higher than the maximum flight loads, shows the additional design safety margin of parachute.
- The test proves India's expertise in designing and manufacturing of high strength ribbon parachutes. The achievement once again highlights TBRL's immense contributions by providing advanced test facilities, instrumentation and technical expertise for space and defence programmes.



MILAN 2026

- On the sidelines of the MILAN 2026 Naval exercise, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held an interaction with visiting Navy Chiefs and Naval delegations from nine ASEAN member states in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on February 19, 2026.
- The meeting underscored India's commitment to its 'Act East Policy' and the vision of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR).
- Raksha Mantri welcomed the significant participation of ASEAN navies in MILAN 2026, noting that the exercise has grown from its modest 1995 beginnings with four foreign navies to its largest-ever edition in February 2026, involving 74 nations.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization established on August 8, 1967, in Bangkok, Thailand, to promote economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional stability. Comprising 10 member states in Southeast Asia, it acts as a central player in Asian economic integration and security cooperation.
- **Member States:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.
- **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The India AI Impact Summit 2026 was inaugurated by:

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Droupadi Murmu
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Amit Shah

Answer: C) Narendra Modi

Explanation: The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

2. The theme of India AI Impact Summit 2026 was:

- A) Digital India for Global Growth
- B) Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya
- C) AI for Economic Revolution
- D) Inclusive Technology for Tomorrow

Answer: B) Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya

Explanation: The theme emphasized welfare and happiness for all through inclusive and human-centric AI development.

3. Under the M.A.N.A.V framework, the letter 'N' stands for:

- A) National Innovation
- B) Network Governance
- C) National Sovereignty
- D) Neutral AI

Answer: C) National Sovereignty

Explanation: 'N' represents National Sovereignty, particularly data ownership rights.

4. Shivaji Maharaj was crowned as Chhatrapati in the year:

- A) 1665
- B) 1670
- C) 1674
- D) 1680

Answer: C) 1674

Explanation: He was crowned on 6 June 1674 at Raigad Fort.

5. The guerrilla warfare strategy pioneered by Shivaji Maharaj is known as:

- A) Chakravyuha
- B) Ganimi Kava
- C) Blitzkrieg
- D) Dhanurveda

Answer: B) Ganimi Kava

Explanation: Ganimi Kava refers to Shivaji Maharaj's effective guerrilla warfare tactics.

6. The drogue parachute test for India's human spaceflight mission was conducted at:

- A) Sriharikota
- B) Thiruvananthapuram
- C) Chandigarh
- D) Bengaluru

Answer: C) Chandigarh

Explanation: The test was conducted at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility of TBRL in Chandigarh.

7. The drogue parachute is associated with which mission?

- A) Chandrayaan-3
- B) Aditya-L1
- C) Gaganyaan
- D) Mangalyaan

Answer: C) Gaganyaan

Explanation: The drogue parachute is part of India's human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan.

8. MILAN 2026 naval exercise was hosted in:

- A) Kochi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Visakhapatnam
- D) Chennai

Answer: C) Visakhapatnam

Explanation: The exercise and related interactions were held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

9. MILAN naval exercise began in which year?

- A) 1991
- B) 1995
- C) 2000
- D) 2005

Answer: B) 1995

Explanation: MILAN started in 1995 with participation from four foreign navies.

10. The headquarters of ASEAN is located in:

- A) Bangkok
- B) Kuala Lumpur
- C) Singapore
- D) Jakarta

Answer: D) Jakarta

Explanation: ASEAN is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia.