

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 20 February 2025

### Mizoram Foundation Day

- Mizoram Foundation Day 2026 will be celebrated on 20 February 2026, marking the day Mizoram became the **23rd state** of India in 1987. This day holds deep political, cultural, and historical importance for the Mizo people.
- Before becoming a full-fledged state, Mizoram was a Union Territory (UT) from 1972, after being separated from Assam. On 20 February 1987, following the historic Mizoram Accord (1986), the region achieved statehood.
- Mizoram Foundation Day 2026 will be observed on Thursday, 20 February 2026.
- It commemorates the historic moment when Mizoram officially attained statehood on 20 February 1987.
- The state was created after the signing of the Mizo Accord in 1986, which brought lasting peace to the region.



## Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day

- Arunachal Pradesh was established as a state in India on February 20, 1987. Arunachal Pradesh was initially a Union Territory which was carved out of Assam. Arunachal Pradesh was known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) during British India and the Republic of India until 1972.
- Arunachal Pradesh is called the '**Land of the Rising Sun**'. It is adjacent to Bhutan, China and Myanmar, which increases its strategic importance. This area was earlier known as North East Frontier Agency. It was made a union territory in the year 1972 and got the status of a full state on 20 February 1987.



## World Day of Social Justice 2026

- 20 February is observed globally as the World Day of Social Justice. In 2026, the theme is "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice."
- **Key Focus Areas**
  - Poverty eradication
  - Full and productive employment
  - Decent work for all
  - Social inclusion and equity
- International Labour Organization adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June 2008.



## Mumbai to Host Prince William's Earthshot Prize

- Mumbai will host the prestigious Earthshot Prize 2026, founded by Prince William, marking a major moment for India's climate leadership. The announcement was made as the city launched its first Mumbai Climate Week.
- The Earthshot Prize, established in 2020, recognizes five global innovators each year with Pound 1 million to scale solutions that repair the planet. Hosting the award underscores India's rising role in global climate action and sustainable innovation.
- Prince William founded The Earthshot Prize in 2020 with the goal of encouraging innovative climate solutions.
- Each year,
- Five winners are selected
- Each receives Pound 1 million
- The focus is on scaling planet-repairing innovations
- Prince William stated that "India is one of the world's most important forces for climate and nature." He emphasized that solutions developed at scale in India can inspire global progress.





## India Joins Pax Silica

- On the fifth day of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, India formally joined the Pax Silica coalition, marking a significant milestone in the strengthening of strategic technology and supply chain cooperation between India and the United States.
- The signing ceremony brought together senior government leaders from both nations, underscoring a shared commitment to securing the full technology stack that will power the AI-driven global economy.
- Pax Silica is envisioned as a strategic coalition of trusted nations committed to securing the “silicon stack”, from critical minerals and semiconductor fabrication to advanced AI systems and deployment infrastructure.
- The initiative seeks to reduce overconcentration in global supply chains, prevent economic coercion, and ensure that emerging technologies are developed and governed by open, democratic societies.
- The Pax Silica initiative was launched in December last year at a summit in Washington, with partner nations including Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.
- Pax Silica is a US-led strategic alliance launched to secure the global supply chain for artificial intelligence and semiconductors, marking a shift from the 20th-century reliance on oil and steel to an economy powered by silicon and critical minerals.
- The term “Pax” comes from the Latin word for peace, signalling a vision of global stability through secure and trusted technology. “Silica” refers to the mineral that forms the fundamental building block of computer chips and AI systems.

- India is seen as a crucial node in Pax Silica due to its vast talent pool and largely untapped mineral resources. Participation could help India reduce its heavy dependence on China, which currently accounts for about 93 per cent of its rare earth imports.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on:**

- A. 21 January 1972
- B. 15 August 1986
- C. 20 February 1987
- D. 26 January 1990

**Answer: C. 20 February 1987**

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**2. The statehood of Mizoram followed the signing of which agreement?**

- A. Shillong Accord
- B. Mizoram Accord
- C. Punjab Accord
- D. Assam Accord

**Answer: B. Mizoram Accord**

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**3. Arunachal Pradesh was earlier known as:**

- A. Naga Hills
- B. Lushai Hills
- C. North East Frontier Agency (NEFA)
- D. Frontier Tribal Area

**Answer: C. North East Frontier Agency (NEFA)**

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**4. Arunachal Pradesh attained full statehood on:**

- A. 20 February 1987
- B. 21 January 1972
- C. 1 November 1966
- D. 15 August 1947

**Answer: A. 20 February 1987**

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**5. 20 February is observed globally as:**

- A. International Peace Day
- B. World Development Day
- C. World Day of Social Justice
- D. Global Equality Day

**Answer: C. World Day of Social Justice**

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**6. The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization was adopted in:**

- A. 1995
- B. 2001
- C. 2008
- D. 2015

**Answer: C. 2008**

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**7. The Earthshot Prize was founded in 2020 by:**

- A. King Charles III
- B. Prince William

- C. David Attenborough
- D. Elon Musk

**Answer: B. Prince William**

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**8. How many winners are selected each year for The Earthshot Prize?**

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Five
- D. Ten

**Answer: C. Five**

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**9. Pax Silica is primarily focused on securing global supply chains related to:**

- A. Oil and Gas
- B. Steel Production
- C. Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductors
- D. Agricultural Products

**Answer: C. Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductors**

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**10. Which Indian city will host The Earthshot Prize 2026 ceremony?**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mumbai

**Answer: D. Mumbai**