ujiyari

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India AI Impact Summit 2026 — Sarvam AI, VoicERA, and India's AI Governance Framework

19 February 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

SCIENCE & TECH   ECONOMY

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator   ●

linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

Free UPSC & State PCS Resources   **ujiyari.com ↗**

India AI Impact Summit 2026 — Sarvam AI, VoicERA, and India's AI Governance Framework

19 February 2026 ·

> ✏️ **WHY IN NEWS**
>
> The **India AI Impact Summit 2026** (February 16–20, New Delhi) concluded with landmark announcements: Bengaluru-based **Sarvam AI** unveiled India's first **30-billion and 105-billion parameter language models**, MeitY launched **VoicERA** (an open-source multilingual Voice AI stack), and the government released India's first comprehensive **AI Governance Framework** built on seven principles.

INDIA AI MISSION — THE POLICY BACKDROP

The **India AI Mission** was approved by the Union Cabinet in **March 2024** with an outlay of **₹10,371 crore** over 5 years. It is implemented by **MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology)** through **IndiaAI** (a new implementation agency).

Seven pillars of IndiaAI Mission:

IndiaAI Compute Capacity — 10,000+ GPU cluster for AI training (awarded to Tata Communications, Yotta, and others)

IndiaAI Innovation Centre — supports foundational model development in Indian languages

IndiaAI Datasets Platform — curated non-personal public datasets for AI training

IndiaAI Application Development Initiative — AI solutions for sectors like agriculture, health, education

IndiaAI FutureSkills — AI literacy and workforce upskilling

IndiaAI Startup Financing — funding support for AI startups

Safe and Trusted AI — governance, regulation, standards

SARVAM AI — INDIA'S INDIGENOUS FOUNDATION MODELS

Sarvam AI (founded 2023, Bengaluru) is an AI startup backed by **Lightspeed, Peak XV Partners** and supported under the IndiaAI Mission. It specialises in **Indian language AI** — building models trained primarily on Indian language data.

February 2026 announcements:

Model	Parameters	Key Feature
Sarvam-30B	30 billion	Multilingual Indian language LLM
Sarvam-105B	105 billion	Large-scale flagship model
Vikram	—	Multilingual chatbot (demo product)

Why India needs indigenous LLMs:

Leading global models (GPT-4, Gemini, Claude) are trained predominantly on **English/European data**

Indian languages — especially Bhojpuri, Santali, Gondi, Meitei — are severely underrepresented

Sovereign AI: India's strategic, health, judicial, and agricultural data should not flow to foreign AI infrastructure

Indian language NLP: 22 scheduled languages + ~700 dialects require specialised tokenisation, script handling

MEITY VOICERA — OPEN-SOURCE VOICE AI FOR INDIA

VoicERA (Voice Enabled Real-time AI) is an **open-source, end-to-end Voice AI stack** developed by **MeitY** for Indian languages. It covers:

Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) — converts spoken Indian language to text

Natural Language Understanding (NLU) — processes the text query

Text-to-Speech (TTS) — generates spoken response in Indian language

Language Identification — auto-detects the spoken language

VoicERA is designed for **Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services** — enabling illiterate or semi-literate citizens to access digital services (ration cards, pension queries, MGNREGS grievances) via voice in their own language.

INDIA'S AI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK — SEVEN PRINCIPLES

MeitY released India's first National AI Governance Framework in February 2026. Unlike the **EU AI Act** (which is binding regulation), India's framework is currently **principles-based and voluntary** — focusing on responsible industry self-governance pending formal legislation.

Seven principles:

Principle	Meaning
Trust	AI systems must be reliable, secure, and safe
People First	AI should augment human welfare, not replace it
Innovation	Regulatory environment must enable innovation
Fairness	No bias, discrimination, or harm to minorities
Accountability	Clear responsibility for AI decisions and errors
Understandability	AI systems must be explainable and interpretable
Safety	Risk assessment required for high-stakes sectors

Sectoral focus: Healthcare, education, agriculture, finance, and public administration are identified as priority sectors where AI governance is most critical.

India vs. EU vs. US approaches:

EU AI Act (2024): World's first binding AI regulation; risk-based classification (minimal, limited, high, prohibited)

US Executive Order on AI (2023): Safety guidelines, not binding law

India's approach: Principles-based, innovation-friendly; formal AI Act possibly in 2027-28

GOOGLE'S $15 BILLION SUBSEA CABLE — VIZAG GATEWAY

Google announced the **America-India Connect Initiative** — a **$15 billion subsea cable infrastructure project** with a new international gateway landing station at **Visakhapatnam (Vizag)**, Andhra Pradesh. New routes: Singapore, South Africa, Australia.

Why Vizag? The AP government offered competitive land, power infrastructure, and strategic coastal location. It also connects to Vizag's emerging data centre ecosystem (which includes L&T Vyoma's Dholera SIR and Reliance-Jio data centres).

India currently has ~**18 subsea cable landing stations** (primarily Chennai, Mumbai, Kochi). Vizag's addition diversifies entry points, reducing single-point failure risk for India's internet backbone.

UPSC RELEVANCE

India AI Mission (₹10,371 crore, March 2024); 7 pillars of IndiaAI Mission; Sarvam AI (30B, 105B parameters); VoicERA (MeitY); AI Governance Framework (7 principles); EU AI Act (2024); Google subsea cable (Vizag, $15B); IndiaAI Innovation Centre; MeitY. **Mains GS-3:** *India's AI strategy; indigenous AI vs. dependency on foreign LLMs; data sovereignty; AI regulation models (EU vs. India vs. US); role of AI in agriculture, healthcare, education; digital divide and AI inclusion.* **Interview:** *"India's AI governance framework is principles-based, while the EU has binding regulations. Is India's approach sufficient for managing AI risks, or does it sacrifice safety for innovation?"*

📌 FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

INDIA AI MISSION:

Approved: **March 2024** | Outlay: **₹10,371 crore** (5 years)

Implementing body: **IndiaAI** under **MeitY**

7 pillars: Compute, Innovation Centre, Datasets, Application Dev, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, Safe & Trusted AI

GPU cluster target: **10,000+ GPUs** for Indian AI research

SARVAM AI:

Founded: 2023 | HQ: **Bengaluru**

Models: **Sarvam-30B** (30B parameters), **Sarvam-105B** (105B parameters)

Product: **Vikram** multilingual chatbot

VOICERA:

Launched by: **MeitY** | Type: Open-source Voice AI stack

Components: ASR + NLU + TTS + Language Identification

AI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK — 7 PRINCIPLES: TRUST | PEOPLE FIRST | INNOVATION | FAIRNESS | ACCOUNTABILITY | UNDERSTANDABILITY | SAFETY

GOOGLE AMERICA-INDIA CONNECT:

Investment: **$15 billion** | New gateway: **Visakhapatnam (Vizag)**, Andhra Pradesh

New routes: Singapore, South Africa, Australia

AI REGULATORY COMPARISON:

EU AI Act (2024): World's first binding AI law; risk-based

US Executive Order on AI (Oct 2023): Guidelines, not law

India (Feb 2026): Principles-based voluntary framework; formal legislation pending

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

NVIDIA-L&T AI Factory: India's first sovereign gigawatt-scale AI factory; Chennai + Mumbai data centres

MeitY AI Startup Book: Mapping of India's AI startup ecosystem

Bharat-VISTAAR Agricultural AI: Launched Feb 17 at Jaipur; "Bharati" voice assistant via 155261; Phase 1 — Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan

India's data centre market: ~$8 billion in 2025; projected ~$25 billion by 2030

Sources: AffairsCloud, GKToday, PIB

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

Published on **ujiyari.com** · Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs