

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 24-02-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Rajaji Utsav

PM announced that a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens in Rashtrapati Bhavan will be replaced by that of C. Rajagopalachari.

- **Observed on** - 23rd February
- **Hosted by** - Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Objectives** - To showcase the many facets of [Rajagopalachari](#)'s contributions.
- To honour those who shaped our destiny and to shed remnants of a colonial mindset.
- **Significance** - It aligns to the *Panch Pran pledges of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, particularly the goal of freeing India from a colonial mindset.

Social Issues

Revised Norms for Scholarship

- **Revised by** - Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Benefit** - Over 1 lakh students annually, especially *children of beedi, cine, and non-coal mine workers*, supporting higher education and long-term livelihood prospects.
- **Objective** - To enhance equity and remove exclusions caused by overlapping eligibility conditions.
- **Significance** - It aligns with the *Code on Social Security*.

Polity & Governance

Systematic Identification and Removal (SIR)

- **SIR** - It is a comprehensive initiative undertaken by the Election Commission (EC) to update and rectify voter lists.
- **Objective** - To remove duplicate, ineligible, or deceased voters from the electoral rolls.
- **Key Highlights**
 - Approximately 8% of voters were removed across 9 States and Union Territories during the 2nd phase of SIR.
 - **Total deletion** - 1.7 crore voters.
 - **Highest deletion rate** - Gujarat (13.4%), Andaman & Nicobar (16.87%).
 - **Lowest deletion rate** - Kerala (3.22%), Lakshadweep (0.36%).

International Relations and Issues

India - Brazil

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil conducted bilateral discussions in New Delhi.

• Key Agreements

- Bilateral cooperation in the exploration and development of rare earth elements and critical minerals.
- Collaboration in the steel and mining sectors.
- Issuance of a joint declaration and adoption of an action plan to advance a future-oriented digital partnership.

• Trade and economic relations

- Commitment to increase bilateral trade to exceed \$20 billion by 2030.
- Brazil proposed to double annual bilateral trade to \$30 billion by 2030.
- Expansion of the India-Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement.
- Promotion of increased investments in renewable energy and critical mineral sectors.

Strategic Importance of India - Brazil Ties

- Diversification of critical mineral supply chains (reducing dependence on China).
- Strengthening cooperation among countries of the Global South.
- India and Brazil are "the two biggest democracies of the Global South."
- Enhanced cooperation in the fields of defence, energy, healthcare, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.

Economy

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

India and France sign amending protocol to update Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.

- **DTAA** - It is a treaty between India and other countries designed to prevent individuals and businesses from being taxed twice on the same income.
- It is significant for individuals who earn income in one country while residing in another.
- Without such an agreement, this income may be taxed in both countries.
- Under a DTAA, taxpayers usually pay tax in only one country or claim credit for taxes paid in one country against their liability in the other.
- India has established DTAA's with over 100 countries to protect Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from double taxation.

Security

INS Anjadip

- It is the 3rd vessel of the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project.
- **Named after** - Anjadip Island, located near Karwar, Karnataka, but officially falls under Goa's jurisdiction.
- **Built by** - GRSE, Kolkata, the vessel reflects India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat push in defence manufacturing.
- **Designed as** - A "Dolphin Hunter", it specializes in detecting, tracking, and neutralizing enemy submarines in shallow waters.
- **Key features** -
 - 77-metre-long vessel.
 - Equipped with an advanced indigenous ASW suite, including hull mounted sonar 'Abhay', lightweight torpedoes and ASW rockets.
 - Powered by a high-speed water-jet propulsion system (speed up to 25 knots).
 - It can perform coastal surveillance, LIMO, and search & rescue missions.

Science

New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

AI Impact Summit 2026, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact.

- **Endorsed by** - 91 countries and international organisations.
- **Guided by** - The principle of “Sarvajnan Hitaya, Sarvajnan Sukhaya” (Welfare for all, Happiness for all).
 - It underscores that the benefits of AI must be equitably shared across humanity.
- **Emphasizes on** -
 - Strengthening international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement.
 - Respecting national sovereignty.
 - Advancing AI through accessible, and trustworthy frameworks.

New Delhi Declaration - 7 Pillars (Chakras) of Action

The Declaration is structured around 7 key pillars, forming the foundation of global AI cooperation.

1. Democratizing AI Resources
2. Economic Growth & Social Good
3. Secure & Trusted AI
4. AI for Science
5. Access for Social Empowerment
6. Human Capital Development
7. Resilient, Efficient & Innovative AI Systems

Super-Dense Data Store

- **Technology** - Data storage using laser pulses to create 3D pixels in glass.
- **Research conducted by** - Microsoft (Project Silica).
- **Method** - It utilizes short laser pulses directed into a 2-mm-thick glass plate, creating three-dimensional pixels across hundreds of layers.
- **Storage Capacity**
 - Each three-dimensional (3D) pixel is capable of representing multiple bits of information.
 - A glass plate measuring *120 mm by 120 mm can store up to 4.8 terabytes (TB) of data.*
 - Durability Borosilicate glass version projected to remain *stable for 10 millennia (10,000 years).*
- **Data Retrieval** - Data can be read using *microscopes and machine learning.*
- **Significance**
 - It offers *extremely high-density and long-term data storage capabilities.*
 - Potential for archival data storage to address growing data needs.
 - **High durability** - Suitable for preserving information over several centuries.