UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 27-02-2026

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History, Art and Culture

R. Nallakannu

• He was Veteran Communist leader and freedom fighter.
• **Born in –** 1925, in Tiruvaikuntam, Thoothukudi district.
• **Political Career**
- **Early Activism –** Joined the Communist movement at age 15; actively engaged in workers' rights protests.
- Stayed with CPI after the 1964 split.
- Served 3 terms as Tamil Nadu State secretary of CPI since 1992.
- Advocated unification of Communist parties to counter communal forces.
• **Activism –** Led campaigns against *illegal sand mining in Thamirabarani river basin*; filed PIL in 2010 and won a stay order.
- Fought exploitation of farm workers and caste oppression.
• **Struggles & Sacrifice –** Arrested in the *Nellai Conspiracy Case (1949),* sentenced to life, released in 1956.
- Imprisoned during the Emergency period.
- Endured police torture and long underground periods during bans on the Communist Party.
• **Awards & Recognition –** Received *Thagaisal Tamizhar Award (2022);* donated ₹10 lakh prize money to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
- Admired even by political opponents, including Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan.

Polity & Governance

Hate Speech

Gauhati High Court issued a notice to Assam Chief Minister over alleged hate speeches targeting Muslims, referred to as the "miya" community.

• **267th Law Commission Report's definition –**
- Hate speech is incitement to hatred against groups defined by *race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc.*
- It can harm individuals and society by inciting violence, discrimination, and intolerance.
• **Freedom of Speech vs Restrictions**
- **Article 19(1)(a) –** Guarantees freedom of speech and expression.
- **Article 19(2) –** Allows reasonable restrictions for sovereignty, integrity, public order, morality, defamation, contempt of court, and prevention of offences.

Hate speech in RPA Act & other laws

• **Representation of People's Act (RPA), 1951 –**
- **Section 8 –** Disqualifies persons convicted for illegal speech from contesting elections.
- **Sections 123(3A) & 125 –** Treat promotion of enmity or hatred during elections as corrupt practices.

• **Other Laws –**
- **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 –** Prohibits hate speech targeting SC/ST communities in public view.
- **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 –** Penalizes speech inciting or encouraging untouchability.

Scrapping of Two-Child Norm

Rajasthan Cabinet repealed the two-child norm that barred individuals with more than two children from contesting Panchayati Raj and urban local body elections.

• **Introduced in –** 1995, as a population control measure.
• **Outmoded –** Fertility rate has since *declined from 3.6 (1991–94) to 2*, making the rule "outdated."
• **Impact –** Candidates with more than 2 children can now contest local elections.

Economy

New Passenger-Friendly Air Ticket Refund Rules

• **Amended by –** Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
• **Features**
• **Free changes/cancellations –** *Within 48 hours of booking*; only fare difference applies.
• **Applicability** – Not valid if flight departs within 7 days (domestic) or 15 days (international).
- After 48 hours – Normal fees apply.

• **Name correction** – It is free *within 24 hours (direct airline bookings).*
• **Refunds via agents/portals –** Airlines are responsible; must process within 14 working days.
• **Medical emergencies –** Refund or credit shell if passenger/family *(same PNR) hospitalised*; other cases need certification from an Aerospace Medicine specialist.

Environment

Chadivayal Elephant Camp

Camp welcomed its 1st inmates, transferred from Kozhikamuthi camp in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, nearly 2 months after its inauguration.

• **Located in –** Coimbatore's Siruvani hills.
• **Aim –** To Serves as a rehabilitation centre for captive elephants.
• **Facilities**
• It enables accommodation for up to 20 elephants and associated staff.
• It includes shower and pool baths, ensures continuity of dietary management, and provides dedicated caretaker amenities.
• Situated along the route to *Kovai Courtallam waterfall*, with plans to permit visitor access.

World's First Modal Shift Project to Earn Carbon Credits

• **1st modal shift transportation project –** Maruti Suzuki's in-plant railway siding in Gujarat.
• **Registered under –** Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) to generate carbon credits.
• **Impact –**
  - Shifts vehicle dispatches from road to rail, reducing emissions and congestion.
  - Expected to cut 1.7 lakh tonnes of CO_2 equivalent over a 10-year period (2023–2033).
• **Methodology –** Emission reductions calculated using *AM0090 methodology under the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism.*
• **Significance –** It supports UN Sustainable Development Goals
  - SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-being.
  - SDG 8 – Decent Work & Economic Growth.
  - SDG 13 – Climate Action.

Science

IA91 Aluminium Alloy Ingot

• **Launched by –** National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Mines.
• **Features –**
  - High-performance, silicon-based casting alloy.
  - Offers a balance of castability, mechanical strength, and corrosion resistance.
• **Applications –**
  - Designed for advanced casting methods like *gravity die casting and low-pressure die casting.*
  - **Target industries –** Automotive, electrical & power equipment, industrial sectors, and foundries.

Body-Worn Cameras Made Mandatory for Passport Verification

Bengaluru Police mandated body-worn cameras for all officers during passport verification, from start to finish.
• **Guidelines** – Officers must visit applicants' residential addresses and collect inputs from neighbours.
• Applicants cannot be summoned to police stations for verification.
• Adverse reports must be backed by clear evidence; harassment or bribe-seeking is strictly prohibited.
• **Transparency measures –** Applicants must be informed 24 hours in advance (via SMS/phone) before verification visits.
• Entire process must be recorded.

Body-Worn Cameras (BWC)

• BWCs are small devices worn by law enforcement officers to record audio and video during interactions with community members (public, suspects, victims).
• **Objective –** To enhance accountability, build trust, and serve as reliable evidence in investigations or disputes.
• **Functions –**
  - To provide transparency between police and communities.
  - To document statements, observations, behaviours, and evidence.
  - To deter unprofessional, illegal, or inappropriate behaviour by both officers and the public.



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