

## 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.*

- **267<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

- **1<sup>st</sup> 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<sub>2</sub> 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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