



# Daily Current Affairs UPPCS Prelims

24 Feb 2026

English



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### 1.1 24 February 2026

#### 1.1.1 Uttar Pradesh's First Semiconductor Unit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone for **North India's first semiconductor unit** on February 23, 2026.
- **Not only Uttar Pradesh, but North India's first semiconductor unit.**
- Established in Sector 28, YEIDA (Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority), **Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar** (Noida), Uttar Pradesh.
- While North India's first is in UP, India's first mega-fab is being built in **Dholera, Gujarat**.
- Operated by **India Chip Private Limited**, a 60:40 Joint Venture between India's **HCL Group** and Taiwan's **Foxconn** (Hon Hai Technology Group).
- A massive investment of **₹3,706 crore**, spanning a 48-acre site.

- Expected to be functional by **2028**, with a capacity to process **20,000 silicon wafers per month**.

#### Policy & Strategic Context

- **UP Semiconductor Policy 2024:**
  - **50% additional capital subsidy** (matching the Central Government's contribution).
  - **75% land rebate** and **100% stamp duty exemption**.
  - **Dual-grid power supply** to ensure 24/7 uninterrupted operations.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0:**
  - Announced in the **Budget 2026**, ISM 2.0 marks the next phase of India's "Techade":
  - **Focus Shift:** Moving from basic "ecosystem setup" to **Technological Depth, Indigenous IP, and Equipment Manufacturing**.

- **Training:** Linked to the "**Chips to Startup**" initiative, aiming to train 85,000 industry-ready specialists.
- **The "Silicon Triangle":** "Silicon Triangle" refers to the industrial and technological cluster forming in the **Noida–Greater Noida–YEIDA** (Yamuna Expressway) region of Uttar Pradesh.

- The city of **Gorakhpur** is situated on its banks.
- **Sorrow of Gorakhpur.**
- Known as the **Airavati** in ancient Buddhist texts.
- It joins the Ghaghara River at **Barhaj** in the Deoria district of UP.

### 1.1.1.1 Question

North India's first semiconductor unit is being established in:

- (a) Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Dholera, Gujarat
- (d) Mohali, Punjab

Answer: (b) Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh)

### 1.1.2 The Suav River: From "Drain" to "River"

- The NGT has ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to restore the **Suav River** (also known as **Suwawan**) in official revenue records.
- It was previously misclassified as a "**nullah**" (**drain**), leading to rampant encroachment and pollution.
- The NGT ruled that misclassifying a river as a drain is a violation of the **Right to Life (Article 21)** and the **Public Trust Doctrine**.
- The river flows primarily through **Balrampur** and **Siddharthnagar** districts in Uttar Pradesh.
- The NGT directed the use of the "**Sant Seechewal Model**" (a famous community-led river cleaning model from Punjab) for its rejuvenation.
- **Geography of Suav River**
- It is a major tributary of the **Rapti River**.
- It flows for approximately **120 km** before joining the Rapti.

#### About the Rapti River (The Parent River)

- Rises in the **Mahabharat Range** (Lesser Himalayas) in **Nepal** near Rukumkot.
- Rapti river is major **left-bank tributary** of the **Ghaghara** (which itself is a major tributary of the Ganga).

### 1.1.2.1 Question

The Suav River primarily flows through which districts of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Gorakhpur and Deoria
- (b) Balrampur and Siddharthnagar
- (c) Lucknow and Barabanki
- (d) Varanasi and Ghazipur

Answer: (b) Balrampur and Siddharthnagar

### 1.1.3 Soundala: India's "Caste-Free" Village

- **The News:** In a landmark social reform, the village of **Soundala** in the **Ahilyanagar** (formerly Ahmednagar) district of Maharashtra has officially declared itself a "**Caste-Free Village**."
- **The Resolution:** Passed unanimously by the **Gram Sabha on February 5, 2026**, the villagers pledged to **reject all caste distinctions**.
- **The Motto:** They adopted the powerful slogan: "**Aamchi jaat... manav**" ("**My caste is humanity**").

#### Key Highlights of the Initiative

- **Universal Access:** The resolution ensures that all public facilities—**schools, temples, water bodies, community halls, and crematories**—are open to all residents regardless of caste, creed, or race.
- **Proactive Governance:** The village administration has committed to monitoring and stopping **caste-based derogatory social media posts** and any form of social exclusion.
- **Preventive Reform:** Interestingly, the village reported few historical conflicts; the move is intended as a **preventive measure** to ensure future social harmony.
- **Global Proposal:** Civil society groups are now proposing **February 5th** be recognized as "**International Caste-Free Day**" following this move.

#### A Hub of Social Progress

- **Legacy of Reform:** This isn't their first bold step. In **2024**, Soundala gained attention for passing resolutions:
  - Promoting **widow remarriage**.
  - Prohibiting the use of **degrading curse words** in the village.
- **Constitutional Link:** The move is a living embodiment of the **Preamble's** ideals of **Equality and Fraternity**.

#### 1.1.3.1 Question

Soundala village, recently in news for declaring itself "Caste-Free," is located in:

- (a) Satara district, Maharashtra
- (b) Ahilyanagar district, Maharashtra
- (c) Nashik district, Maharashtra
- (d) Wardha district, Maharashtra

Answer: (b) Ahilyanagar district, Maharashtra

#### 1.1.4 National Arogya Fair 2026

- The Ministry of Ayush is organising a four-day National Arogya Fair 2026 in **Shegaon, Buldhana district (Maharashtra)** from **25 to 28 February 2026**.
- The event is significant as it promotes Ayush systems while creating livelihood opportunities for farmers through medicinal plant cultivation and agroforestry.
- Organised by the **Ministry of Ayush, Government of India**.
- Ayush Systems Covered: Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy
- Separate stalls for all Ayush streams under one platform.
- Special Initiative for Farmers
- Focus on farmers from Buldhana district and nearby areas (Vidarbha region).
- Encourage **agroforestry and medicinal plant cultivation**.
- Special programme: "Ayurvedic Farming, Production and Marketing".

#### 1.1.4.1 Question

The special programme "Ayurvedic Farming, Production and Marketing" aims to:

- (a) Replace conventional farming entirely with organic farming
- (b) Promote agroforestry and medicinal plant cultivation
- (c) Introduce genetically modified medicinal crops
- (d) Ban chemical fertilisers nationwide

Answer: (b) Promote agroforestry and medicinal plant cultivation

#### 1.1.5 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative

- **Palamu Tiger Reserve** launches 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative **for women to protect wildlife; empowering locals to save jungles**.
- It engaging 18 educated women from each of the 17 selected villages. These community champions will **inspire their neighbors to safeguard rich forests and diverse wildlife**, tapping into their influence at home.
- Each Vanjeevi Didi will get Rs 3,000 incentive per month.
- Palamau Tiger Reserve is located in Jharkhand.

#### 1.1.5.1 Question

The 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative has been launched in:

- (a) Similipal Tiger Reserve
- (b) Palamau Tiger Reserve
- (c) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- (d) Sundarbans Tiger Reserve

Answer: (b) Palamau Tiger Reserve

#### 1.1.5.2 Question

The primary objective of the 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative is to:

- (a) Promote eco-tourism through private companies
- (b) Empower local women as community champions for forest and wildlife protection
- (c) Relocate villages from tiger reserves
- (d) Introduce artificial intelligence in forest monitoring

### 1.1.6 World Ocean Science Congress 2026

- **Goa is hosting the World Ocean Science Congress 2026**, bringing together policymakers, scientists and coastal communities.
- The event is significant as it links ocean science with livelihoods, climate resilience and the sustainable blue economy.
- Held at the **National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa**.
- Event continues till February 26, 2026.
- **Fourth edition** of the Congress.
- Previous editions held in **Visakhapatnam, Kochi and Chennai**.
- Co-organised by National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) and Goa University

#### 1.1.6.1 Question

The World Ocean Science Congress 2026 is being hosted in:

- Kochi
- Chennai
- Visakhapatnam
- Goa

Answer: (d) Goa

#### 1.1.6.2 Question

The 2026 edition of the World Ocean Science Congress is:

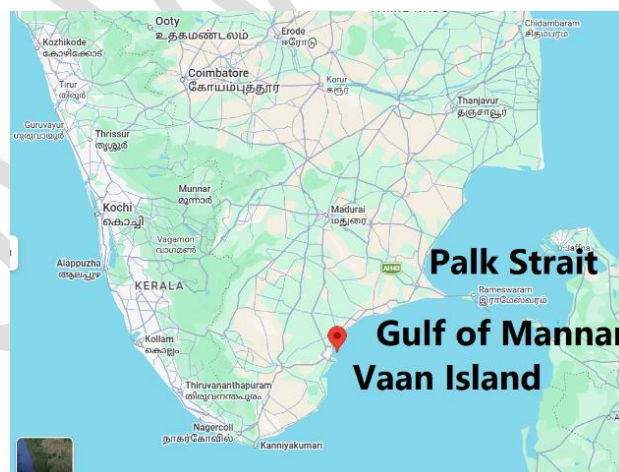
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- Fifth

Answer: (c) Fourth

### 1.1.7 Vaan Island Reef Restoration

- A decade-long artificial reef restoration at **Vaan Island in the Gulf of Mannar** has generated socio-ecological benefits worth **Rs 61.67 crore**, more than double its inflation-adjusted cost.

- The study is significant as it proves that **nature-based coastal restoration** can deliver strong **economic and ecological returns**.
- Vaan Island is **one of 21 uninhabited coral islands in the Gulf of Mannar**.
- Shrunk by 92% between 1969 and 2015. Area reduced from about 20 hectares to 1.53 hectares.
- Causes: Coral mining, Sea-level rise, Reef degradation
- Restoration Intervention (Since 2015): Deployment of 10,600 specially designed artificial reef modules around the island.
- Island area expanded to over 2.3 hectares.
- Reef-associated fish density increased from 106 to 875 individuals per hectare (eight-fold rise). 26 native plant species preserved.



#### 1.1.7.1 Question

Vaan Island, recently in news for reef restoration, is located in:

- Arabian Sea
- Bay of Bengal
- Gulf of Mannar
- Lakshadweep Sea

Answer: (c) Gulf of Mannar

### 1.1.8 INS Krishna: India's First "Floating Classroom"

- **What:** First of three **indigenously built Cadet Training Ships (CTS)** for the Indian Navy.
- **Builder:** **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at **Kattupalli Shipyard, Chennai**.
- **Launch Date:** 16th February 2026 (in the presence of CDS General Anil Chauhan).

- **Name Origin:** Named after the Krishna River, the third-longest river in India.
- **Symbolism:** The ship's crest features a lotus in bloom, symbolizing knowledge and purity.
- **Training Infrastructure:** Features 3 specialized classrooms (70 cadets each), a dedicated training bridge, and a chart house.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** A major milestone in indigenous warship design and private-sector shipbuilding (Buy Indian-IDDMM category).
- **Enhanced Training:** Shifts cadet transition from "theoretical shore training" to "practical sea operations" without diverting frontline warships from active duty.
- **Secondary Roles:** Capable of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), and non-combatant evacuations.

#### 1.1.8.1 Question

INS Krishna is best described as:

- (a) India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier
- (b) A nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) The first indigenously built Cadet Training Ship
- (d) A coastal patrol vessel

#### 1.1.9 Rob Jetten Becomes Netherlands' Youngest Prime Minister

- The Netherlands is set to swear in its youngest-ever Prime Minister as **38-year-old Rob Jetten** takes office in The Hague.
- This is significant as **he also becomes the country's first openly gay Prime Minister**, marking a historic moment in Dutch political history.
- The new government will be formally installed by King Willem-Alexander.
- The ceremony will take place at Huis Ten Bosch Palace in The Hague.
- His centrist party **Democrats 66 (D66)** overturned the far-right Party for Freedom (PVV).

#### 1.1.9.1 Question

Recently in news, Rob Jetten became the youngest-ever Prime Minister of which country?

- (a) Belgium
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Netherlands
- (d) Sweden

Answer: (c) Netherlands

#### 1.1.10 Operation Demolishment

- India's intensified **campaign against Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** has entered a new phase with Operation Demolishment, **targeting ideological symbols of Naxalism**.
- The move is significant as it expands counterinsurgency efforts beyond armed operations to **dismantling propaganda structures**.
- Operation Demolishment **targets memorials and monuments** allegedly erected by Naxal operatives and cadres.
- So far, 203 memorials and monuments demolished.
- Action taken in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Both states have long witnessed high Naxal activity.

#### 1.1.10.1 Question

Operation Demolishment, recently seen in news, is related to:

- (a) Coastal security infrastructure in the Indian Ocean
- (b) Dismantling ideological symbols of Left-Wing Extremism
- (c) Removal of illegal constructions in border areas
- (d) Counter-terror funding through cyber surveillance

Answer: (b) Dismantling ideological symbols of Left-Wing Extremism

#### 1.1.11 India Launches "Prahaar" Anti-Terror Policy Framework

**Who**

Launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** on **23 February 2026**.

**What**

The policy is built on seven strategic pillars, forming the acronym **PRAHAAR**:

Letter	Pillar	Strategic Focus
<b>P</b>	<b>Prevention</b>	Intelligence-led operations and proactive surveillance.
<b>R</b>	<b>Responses</b>	Swift, proportionate, and graded tactical replies.
<b>A</b>	<b>Aggregating</b>	Achieving synergy through a "whole-of-government" approach.
<b>H</b>	<b>Human Rights</b>	Mitigation based on the "Rule of Law" and legal safeguards.
<b>A</b>	<b>Attenuating</b>	Countering conditions like radicalization and extremist propaganda.
<b>A</b>	<b>Aligning</b>	Shaping international cooperation and global terror treaties.
<b>R</b>	<b>Recovery</b>	Building resilience through a "whole-of-society" involvement.

### Evolving Threat Landscape

The framework identifies specific modern challenges that require a unified response:

- **Technological Misuse:** Highlights the threat from **drones** (especially in J&K and Punjab), **robotics**, and the **Dark Web**.
- **Financial Warfare:** Targets the use of **cryptocurrency** and encrypted messaging for anonymous terror funding.
- **Hybrid Threats:** Focuses on the nexus between **organized crime networks** and terror outfits for logistics.
- **CBRNED Risks:** Warns against the misuse of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive, and Digital materials.
- **Critical Infrastructure:** Prioritizes the protection of power grids, railways, space assets, and atomic energy facilities.

### Legal and Operational Reforms

- **Legal Integration:** Proposes involving **legal experts** at every stage of the process—from the initial FIR registration to final prosecution—to ensure high conviction rates.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Strengthens the **Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)** and the Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI) for real-time data flow.
- **Uniform Structure:** Aims to establish a uniform anti-terrorism structure across all Indian states to ensure standardized response procedures.
- **Global Collaboration:** Emphasizes extradition, deportation, and agency-to-agency cooperation to tackle transnational actors.

### Counter-Radicalization & Society

- **Graded Response:** Implements a "graded police response" to radicalization, where legal action is tailored to the individual's level of involvement.
- **Community Engagement:** Involves religious leaders, NGOs, and moderate preachers to counter extremist propaganda.
- **Correctional Reform:** Introduces specialized **prison-based de-radicalization** programs to prevent hardcore inmates from influencing vulnerable ones.
- **Youth Outreach:** Focuses on constructive engagement and education to prevent recruitment by global groups like ISIS or Al-Qaeda.

#### 1.1.11.1 Question

"Prahaar", recently in news, is related to:

- (a) A new indigenous missile defence system
- (b) India's first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy framework
- (c) A maritime security drill in the Indian Ocean
- (d) A cyber insurance scheme for banks

Answer: (b) India's first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy framework

### 1.1.11.2 Question

The "Prahaar" Anti-Terror Policy Framework was released by:

- (a) Ministry of Defence
- (b) National Security Council Secretariat
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs

Answer: (c) Ministry of Home Affairs

### 1.1.12 Rajagopalachari Statue to Replace Lutyens at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The Prime Minister of India announced that the **statue of Edwin Lutyens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be replaced by that of C. Rajagopalachari.**
- The move is significant as it symbolically honours **the first Indian Head of State who occupied the building after Independence.**
- Lutyens designed the monumental Rashtrapati Bhavan.

#### C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)

- Born: 10th December 1878, Salem, Madras Province (now Tamil Nadu).
- First and last Indian Governor-General of independent India.
- Inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930) from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam, mirroring the Dandi March.
- Served as Prime Minister of Madras Province (1937).

#### The C.R. Formula (1944)

- Authored pamphlet **"The Way Out"** after the Quit India Movement.
- Proposed formula to resolve constitutional deadlock between INC and Muslim League over Pakistan demand.
- Published Vimochanam (Tamil) and Prohibition (English).
- Won 1958 Sahitya Akademi Award (Tamil) for Chakravarthi Thirumagan (retelling of Ramayana).

- One of the first three recipients of Bharat Ratna (1954). Alongside Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman.

### 1.1.12.1 Question

The statue of Edwin Lutyens at Rashtrapati Bhavan is proposed to be replaced by that of:

- (a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (b) C. Rajagopalachari
- (c) Rajendra Prasad
- (d) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Answer: (b) C. Rajagopalachari

### 1.1.13 India's 'Boong' Wins Big at BAFTA Awards 2026

- India created history at the BAFTA Awards 2026 as the **Manipuri-language film Boong** became **the first Indian film to win the Best Children's and Family Film category.**
- The ceremony was held at the **Royal Festival Hall, London.**
- Directed by **debut filmmaker Lakshmi Priya Devi.**
- Theme: Family, resilience and hope.

#### Plot:

- Follows a young boy named Boong. Raised by his single mother Mandakini. Embarks on a journey with his best friend to find his missing father.
- The **79th British Academy Film Awards**, more commonly known as the BAFTAs, were held on 22 February 2026

### 1.1.13.1 Question

The film Boong was directed by:

- (a) Rima Das
- (b) Lakshmi Priya Devi
- (c) Mira Nair
- (d) Konkona Sen Sharma

Answer: (b) Lakshmi Priya Devi

### 1.1.14 Delhi–Meerut Namu Bharat RRTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Delhi–Meerut Namu Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** and the **Meerut Metro route**, marking a major milestone in high-speed regional connectivity in northern India.
- Inaugurated remaining stretches:
- 5-km stretch between **Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar (Delhi)**.
- 21-km stretch between **Meerut South and Modipuram (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- Namu Bharat trains: Provide fast inter-city connectivity.
- Supports the government's **"Twin Cities" vision for urban mobility** and regional development.

#### Project Details

- Total Cost: ₹30,274 crore.
- Total Length: 82.15 km.
- Elevated Track: ~70 km.
- Underground Section: ~12 km.
- Implemented by **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)**.
- Joint venture of Central Government and states of **Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**.

#### What is Namu Bharat RRTS?

- High-speed, high-capacity regional commuter service.
- Connects **major nodes in the National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- Faster than Metro for long distances with fewer stops.
- More frequent and reliable than conventional railways.
- Operates on dedicated corridors.

#### 1.1.14.1 Question

The Delhi–Meerut Namu Bharat RRTS project is implemented by:

- (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)  
 (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)  
 (c) National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)

(d) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)

Answer: (c) National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)

### 1.1.15 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics 2026

- The Milano Cortina Winter Olympics 2026 became one of the most unique editions in Olympic history, delivering record-breaking performances, emotional comebacks and controversies.
- Events spread across several cities and mountain towns **in Italy**.
- Norway topped medal table with 41 medals. **Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo** won six gold medals, first athlete to achieve this at a Winter Olympics.
- United States Won a record 12 gold medals.
- U.S. Hockey Men's team won Olympic gold for the first time since 1980.
- Women's team won gold after intense final vs Canada.
- Italy's Best Home Performance. Italy won 30 medals, including 10 golds.
- Ukrainian skeleton athlete **Vladyslav Heraskevych** barred for helmet message.
- Drone camera coverage introduced.
- **Brazil won its first Winter Olympic medal** through Lucas Pinheiro Braathen.

#### 1.1.15.1 Question

The Milano Cortina Winter Olympics 2026 were hosted by:

- (a) France  
 (b) Switzerland  
 (c) Italy  
 (d) Austria

Answer: (c) Italy

#### 1.1.15.2 Question

Which country topped the medal table at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics 2026?

- (a) United States                      (b) Germany  
 (c) Norway                                (d) Canada

Answer: (c) Norway