



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs Today – February 8, 2026

8 February 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator •

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

Free UPSC & State PCS Resources

ujiyari.com

Current Affairs Today — February 8, 2026

8 February 2026

WHY IN NEWS

PM Modi held bilateral talks in Malaysia on semiconductors and anti-terrorism; India-US interim trade agreement defended with protected agricultural commodities listed; rescue operations continued at Meghalaya's illegal coal mine with more bodies recovered; Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan set a world record at the Asian Shooting Championship; and Bangladesh announced its 13th Jatiya Sangsad elections for February 12, 2026.

PM MODI'S MALAYSIA VISIT — BILATERAL TALKS WITH PM ANWAR IBRAHIM

PM Modi held bilateral talks with Malaysian PM **Anwar Ibrahim** in Kuala Lumpur, covering: **defence and security, semiconductor industry, digital economy, energy, education, tourism, and trade**. Modi reiterated India's firm stance on terrorism — **"no double standards and no compromise."** The visit was PM Modi's **third official visit** to Malaysia.

UPSC RELEVANCE

India's third PM Modi visit to Malaysia, sectors discussed, bilateral trade USD 19.86 billion, 10th India-Malaysia CEO Forum.

MAINS GS-2:

Act East Policy; ASEAN engagement; anti-terrorism diplomacy.

INDIA-US INTERIM TRADE AGREEMENT — AGRICULTURAL SAFEGUARDS CONFIRMED

Commerce & Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** described the India-US interim trade agreement as "fair, equitable, and balanced." Agricultural products **protected** from adverse impact (designated "adequately produced in India"): **maize, wheat, rice, sugar, soybean, poultry**. The diamond sector welcomed tariff reductions — over **10 lakh workers** benefit. The **PIB Fact Check Unit** debunked an AI-generated viral video falsely claiming the deal harms Indian farmers.

CBDT opened **Draft Income Tax Rules and Forms** under the new **Income Tax Act 2025** for public consultation with a **February 22, 2026 deadline** via the official IT portal.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Piyush Goyal (Commerce Ministry), CAIT, protected agricultural items, PIB Fact Check Unit, CBDT, Income Tax Act 2025 (replaces IT Act 1961), implementation date April 1, 2026.

MAINS GS-3:

Trade policy, agricultural protection, direct tax reform.

SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT TO INDIA

Seychelles President Patrick Herminie (and First Lady Veronique Herminie) was on a **five-day official visit** to India — visiting Chennai, Mumbai, and New Delhi. Met Maharashtra CM **Devendra Fadnavis** and Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** (Ports, Shipping and Waterways) at the India-Seychelles Business Roundtable, with focus on **port-led development and coastal management**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Patrick Herminie (Seychelles President), India-Seychelles relations, Assumption Island (India's coast guard facility), CSC (6th member).

MAINS GS-2:

India's IOR diplomacy, SAGAR vision, blue economy.

MEGHALAYA ILLEGAL COAL MINE EXPLOSION — RESCUE OPERATIONS CONTINUE

Search and rescue operations continued at **Mynsngat, Thangsko area, Meghalaya** where an explosion occurred in an **illegal coal mine**. Two additional bodies were recovered. Agencies deployed: **NDRF (National Disaster Response Force), SDRF, Special Rescue Team (SRT)**.

Key facts: Meghalaya's coal mining is dominated by **rat-hole mining** — a method where tunnels as narrow as a person are dug sideways into hillsides. The NGT (National Green Tribunal) had **banned rat-hole coal mining in Meghalaya** since **April 2014**, but illegal mining has continued.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Rat-hole mining (definition, Meghalaya), NGT ban (April 2014), NDRF mandate, Thangsko area.

MAINS GS-3:

Mining regulations, disaster management, environmental governance in Northeast India; GS-2: NGT's enforcement powers.

UIDAI COMPLETES 1 CRORE BIOMETRIC UPDATES FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) completed over **1 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs)** for schoolchildren, covering **83,000 schools** in collaboration with UIDAI Regional Offices and state education departments. MBUs are required for children as their biometrics change during growth.

UPSC RELEVANCE

UIDAI, MBU (Mandatory Biometric Update), 1 crore updates, 83,000 schools.

MAINS GS-2:

Digital governance, identity infrastructure, Aadhaar ecosystem.

ARJUN BABUTA AND ELAVENIL VALARIVAN SET WORLD RECORD

Shooting pair **Arjun Babuta** and **Elavenil Valarivan** won gold in the **10m Air Rifle Mixed Team** event at the **Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026** held in **New Delhi**, scoring **505 points** — both a **championship record and world record**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 (New Delhi), Arjun Babuta, Elavenil Valarivan, 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team, 505 points.

PERSONS IN NEWS / SPORTS.

BANGLADESH'S 13TH JATIYA SANGSAD ELECTIONS — FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Bangladesh announced its **13th Jatiya Sangsad (national parliament) elections** for **February 12, 2026** — the **first election after the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government in August 2024**. A total of **2,034 candidates** from **51 political parties** plus 275 independents are contesting.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Jatiya Sangsad, 13th election, 2,034 candidates, 51 parties, February 12 2026, Muhammad Yunus-led interim government (post-August 2024).

MAINS GS-2:

India's neighbourhood policy, India-Bangladesh relations, political transition in Bangladesh.

DELHI FLAGS OFF 500 ELECTRIC BUSES

Delhi CM **Rekha Gupta** flagged off **500 electric buses**, launching a new route **Delhi–Panipat**. Delhi's total bus fleet now **exceeds 4,000 buses**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Delhi EV bus fleet (4,000+), Delhi-Panipat new route.

MAINS GS-3:

Sustainable urban mobility, EV adoption, PM e-bus sewa yojana, public transport policy.

JAPAN'S SNAP ELECTIONS — SANAЕ TAKAICHI'S LDP WINS

Japan's snap parliamentary elections were held on **February 8, 2026**. PM **Sanae Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** secured a fresh mandate. PM Modi congratulated Takaichi, referencing the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Japan's snap election Feb 8, LDP 316 seats, 465-seat lower house, India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

MAINS GS-2:

India-Japan relations, Quad grouping.

NSA AJIT DOVAL IN OTTAWA — INDIA-CANADA SECURITY DIALOGUE

NSA Ajit Doval met his Canadian counterpart (National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Canadian PM) in **Ottawa** to strengthen bilateral security cooperation — signalling diplomatic re-engagement after India-Canada relations deteriorated sharply following the **Hardeep Singh Nijjar killing controversy** in June 2023.

UPSC RELEVANCE

NSA Ajit Doval, Ottawa talks, Hardeep Singh Nijjar (June 2023), CEPA suspension.

MAINS GS-2:

India-Canada bilateral relations, sovereignty vs. diaspora politics.

RSS CENTENARY — 100 YEARS (1925–2025)

RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) celebrated its **centenary year** in 2025 — founded on **September 27, 1925** by Dr. **K.B. Hedgewar** in **Nagpur**. RSS Chief **Mohan Bhagwat** spoke at a centenary event in Mumbai, describing “Hindu” as “an adjective, not a noun — a cultural and civilizational umbrella.”

UPSC RELEVANCE

RSS founding year (1925), founder K.B. Hedgewar, founding city (Nagpur).

MAINS GS-1/GS-4:

Cultural nationalism, Indian identity, diversity debates.

DR. ZAKIR HUSSAIN BIRTH ANNIVERSARY (FEBRUARY 8, 1897)

President Droupadi Murmu paid tribute to former President **Dr. Zakir Hussain** on his birth anniversary. Dr. Zakir Hussain (February 8, 1897 – May 3, 1969) was India's **3rd President (May 13, 1967 – May 3, 1969)** – the **first Muslim President of India** – and died in office. He was a key figure at **Jamia Millia Islamia** (he was its Vice Chancellor, then founded the Jamia Millia).

UPSC RELEVANCE

Zakir Hussain – 3rd President, first Muslim President, dates, died in office, Jamia Millia connection.

PERSONS IN NEWS.

INDIA WINS T20 WORLD CUP MATCH VS USA

India defeated **USA by 29 runs** in Match 3 of the **T20 World Cup 2026** (India as host) at **Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai**. Scores: **India 162; USA 132/8**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

T20 World Cup 2026 (India as host), Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai), USA in cricket, ICC expansion.

PERSONS IN NEWS / SPORTS.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA
INDIA-US TRADE (PROTECTED AGRICULTURE):

Protected items: **maize, wheat, rice, sugar, soybean, poultry** (designated “adequately produced in India”)

Diamond sector: **10 lakh workers** benefit from tariff reductions

PIB Fact Check Unit: Debunked AI-generated disinformation about the deal

INCOME TAX ACT 2025:

Replaces: **Income Tax Act 1961** (60-year-old legislation)

Presidential assent: **August 2025**; Implementation: **April 1, 2026**

CBDT consultation deadline: **February 22, 2026**

MEGHALAYA COAL MINING:

Method: **Rat-hole mining** — narrow horizontal tunnels dug into hillsides

NGT ban on rat-hole mining in Meghalaya: **April 2014**

Incident location: **Mynsngat, Thangsko area, Meghalaya**

Agencies deployed: NDRF, SDRF, SRT

UIDAI BIOMETRIC UPDATES:

Completed: **1 crore MBUs** (Mandatory Biometric Updates) for schoolchildren

Coverage: **83,000 schools** across India

UIDAI = Unique Identification Authority of India (set up under Aadhaar Act 2016)

SHOOTING WORLD RECORD:

Athletes: **Arjun Babuta + Elavenil Valarivan** (10m Air Rifle Mixed Team)

Score: **505 points** (championship + world record)

Tournament: **Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026**, New Delhi

BANGLADESH ELECTIONS:

Parliament: **Jatiya Sangsad**; Edition: **13th**; Date: **February 12, 2026**

Candidates: **2,034** from 51 parties + 275 independents

Context: First elections post-Sheikh Hasina government ouster (**August 2024**)

Interim govt: **Muhammad Yunus**-led

DR. ZAKIR HUSSAIN:

Born: **February 8, 1897**; Died: **May 3, 1969** (in office)

India's **3rd President** (May 13, 1967 – May 3, 1969)

First Muslim President of India

Key institution: **Jamia Millia Islamia**, New Delhi

RSS CENTENARY:

Founded: **September 27, 1925** by Dr. **K.B. Hedgewar**, Nagpur

Chief (2026): **Mohan Bhagwat**

Sources: NewsOnAir — All India Radio, Drishti IAS

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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