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**TAAZA**

**KHABAR**

17-18 | August

2023

## A Note for Our Students

Current affairs form core component of General Knowledge section in almost all the competitive exams. Observing the recent trends, questions from current affairs has successively increased. But how to find out relevant current affairs from vast data available on numerous websites, apps and videos??

How to efficiently prepare current affairs keeping in mind relevance of the exam??

Don't worry!!

We have the solution; Gyanm team will segregate the important and the most relevant current affairs under heading 'Gyanm recommendations' so that you can prepare this crucial component with complete efficiency!!

So let's begin!!

## Gyanm Recommendations!

### 1. App FloodWatch for flood forecasting



The Central Water Commission launched a mobile app 'FloodWatch' on August 17 in New Delhi. It will provide real time flood forecast situations, up to seven days on a real-time basis, across the country. The app utilises advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.

**2. Warship 'Vindhyagiri':** The advanced stealth frigate, sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates was launched on August 17 at Kidderpore in Kolkata on the banks of Hooghly River. It has been built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. The state-of-the-art ship will be fitted with the latest gadgets and undergo extensive trials before being handed over to the Indian Navy for commissioning into service.

### 3. Indigenous revolver 'Prabal' launched



India's first long range revolver, 'Prabal', manufactured by state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh was launched on August 18.

This lightweight 32 bore revolver can meet its target up to 50 metres, more than double the range of the other revolvers being manufactured. It is only 700 grams (without cartridges) in weight and its barrel length is 76 mm, while its overall length is 177.6 mm.

### 4. 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme approved

The union cabinet approved the 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme on August 16 for augmenting city bus operations across the country. Under the scheme, 10,000 e-buses will be deployed across cities having a population of three lakh and above. Priority will be given to the cities without organised bus service. It will also lead to cleaner and more efficient transport as well as generate several jobs.

The scheme has been allocated a total funding of Rs 57,613 crore. States/Cities shall be responsible for running the bus services and making payments to the bus operators. The Central Government will support these bus operations by providing prescribed subsidies.



## 5. PM Vishwakarma Yojana launched



The union cabinet approved on August 16 Rs 13,000 crore funding for a five year period for the PM Vishwakarma Yojana. The scheme aims at strengthening the family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople across the country. A total of 18 trades such as Carpenter, Blacksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Cobbler, Weaver, Barber, Washerman, Tailor etc. will be covered under the scheme. Credit support up to Rs. 1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs. 2 lakh (Second Tranche) will be provided to the beneficiaries at a concessional interest rate of 5%. Artisans and craftsmen will be given a PM Vishwakarma certificate and an ID card each. The scheme is expected to cover over 30 lakh families across the country.

## 6. G20 Film Festival held in New Delhi

The G20 Film Festival began in New Delhi on August 16 with the screening of Satyajit Ray's iconic film Pather Panchali. The festival featured films from various participating countries, including the US, South Korea, Turkey, and the UK. The festival was organised by the India International Centre, New Delhi and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs.

**7. Northwest Territories, Canada:** The government of Northwest Territories province of Canada declared a state of emergency on August 15 due to devastating wildfires. More than 130,000 square kilometres of land were scorched and nearly 168,000 people were forced to evacuate. The province so far had 265 wildfires this year, much higher than its 10-year annual average of 185.



Since a vast area of the province is remote, untouched wilderness, it's very difficult to manage wildfires in those areas as there is no road access or any other infrastructure needed to support firefighting activity.

**8. Priya Malik** made history in women's wrestling by emerging as world champion in the 76 kg category in the 2023 U20 World Championships on August 17 at Amman city, Jordan. The 18-year-old from Jind district of Haryana defeated Laura Celine Kuehn of Germany 6-0 on points.

Earlier, Mohit Kumar too, won the gold in men's 61 Kg freestyle category.

## 9. RBI's 'UDGAM' for unclaimed deposits

# RBI LAUNCHES UDGAM PORTAL TO TRACK UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS



The Reserve Bank of India launched a centralised web portal UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access information) on August 17 to help people search and claim unclaimed deposits, across the banking sector. It will facilitate and make it easier for the public to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks, at one place.

To begin with, customers would be able to access the details of their unclaimed deposits in respect of seven banks presently available on the portal. The search facility for remaining banks would be made available in a phased manner by October 15, 2023.

As of February 2023, about Rs 35,000 crore unclaimed deposits were transferred to the RBI by public sector banks. Unclaimed deposits are those which have not operated for 10 years or more.

**10. The Asian Development Bank** sanctioned a \$ 40.5 million loan to Meghalaya for improving early childhood development and maternal mental health in the state. The project includes upgrading of 1,800 existing Anganwadi centers and construction of approximately 600 new centers.



**11. SEACAT 2023:** INS Kulish of the Indian Navy participated in the 22nd edition of Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) Exercise in Singapore on August 14, 2023. Marine forces from 20 Indo-Pacific partner nations, including the U.S. Navy took part in the exercise.



## **12. 'Lakhpatri Didis' to cover 2 crore women**

During his recent Independence Day address, the Prime Minister announced the 'Lakhpatri Didis' scheme for providing vocational training to two crore women in rural areas across the country. The scheme aims to empower women and stimulate economic growth. The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale.

Under the scheme, women will undergo training in a range of practical skills that align with emerging industry demands. These skills may include diverse skills like plumbing, LED bulb making, and the operation and repair of drones, among others.



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## Some Other Minor News!

1. The government has decided to make police and biometric verification of mobile SIM card dealers mandatory and discontinue the bulk connection mechanism. Further, registration will also be compulsory for all point-of-sale dealers. The steps have been taken to check the practice of cyber frauds, fraudulent calls and protect the users.
2. V S Arunachalam, a prominent scientist and instrumental figure in India's nuclear program, died at the age of 87. He was well-known for his excellent leadership at the DRDO and at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.
3. The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library at the Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi, has officially been renamed as the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society (Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, in short) with effect from August 14. The Teen Murti Bhavan had served as the official residence of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

## Multiple Choice Questions!

1. What is the name of the advanced stealth frigate that was launched on August 17 at Kidderpore in Kolkata on the banks of Hooghly River?
  - a. Satpura
  - b. Nilgiri
  - c. Vindhyagiri
  - d. Aravali
  - e. Vindhya
  
2. What is the name of India's first long range revolver manufactured by state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh that was launched on August 18?
  - a. Vikat
  - b. Prabal
  - c. Vighrah
  - d. Achook
  - e. Nishank
  
3. The union cabinet approved the 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme on August 16 for augmenting city bus operations across the country. Initially, it will be launched in cities having population of \_\_\_\_\_ lakh and above:
  - a. One
  - b. Two
  - c. Three
  - d. Four
  - e. Five

4. The union cabinet approved which scheme on August 16 for strengthening the family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople?
  - a. PM Kaarigar Yojana
  - b. PM Hastshilp Yojana
  - c. PM Kutir Udyog Yojana
  - d. PM Vishwakarma Yojana
  - e. PM Gramodyog Yojana
  
5. The G20 Film Festival began in \_\_\_\_\_ on August 16 with the screening of Satyajit Ray's iconic film Pather Panchali:
  - a. Shillong
  - b. Puri
  - c. Kochi
  - d. New Delhi
  - e. Srinagar
  
6. Who made history in women's wrestling by emerging as world champion in the 76 kg category in the 2023 U20 World Championships on August 17 at Amman city, Jordan?
  - a. Priya Malik
  - b. Sarita Mor
  - c. Alka Tomar
  - d. Divya Kakran
  - e. Anshu Malik



7. The Reserve Bank of India launched a centralised web portal UDGAM on August 17 for what purpose?
  - a. For faster disposal of complaints
  - b. To promote research in data management
  - c. To push innovations in online banking
  - d. To facilitate disposal of unclaimed deposits
  - e. To promote research in digital payments
  
8. The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$ 40.5 million loan to which Indian state for improving early childhood development and maternal mental health in the state?
  - a. Meghalaya
  - b. Kerala
  - c. Sikkim
  - d. Tripura
  - e. Odisha
  
9. The Indian Navy participated in the 22nd edition of Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) Exercise. It was hosted by which country?
  - a. Japan
  - b. Thailand
  - c. Singapore
  - d. Indonesia
  - e. Malaysia

10. The Prime Minister announced the 'Lakhpati Didis' scheme on Independence Day for what purpose?

- a. To provide digital transaction training to women
- b. To impart financial literacy to women
- c. To provide vocational training to women
- d. To raise financial status of rural women
- e. None of these

## Answer Key

Q	ANSWER
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	D
5	D
6	A
7	D
8	A
9	C
10	C

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