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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. November 17: National Epilepsy Day



The day is celebrated by the Epilepsy Foundation, Mumbai to create awareness about epilepsy. The month of November is observed as 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month'. As per the government data, about 10 million people in India suffer from seizures associated with epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a disorder that affects the central nervous system of the brain. People affected by epilepsy suffer from abnormal brain activity that ultimately leads to fits or seizures, lack of consciousness, and unusual behaviour, at times.

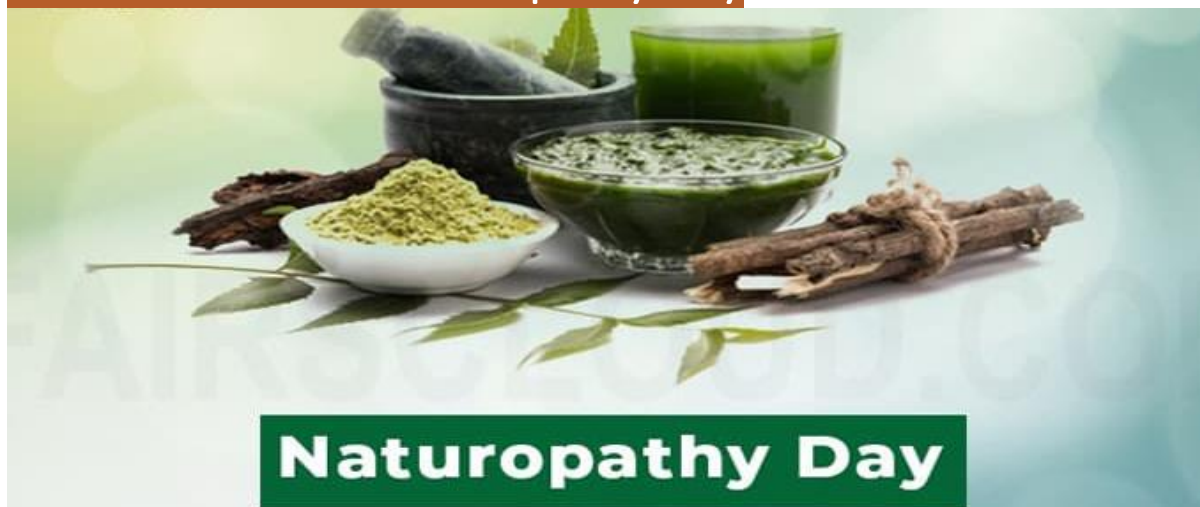
Remember!! International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on the second Monday of February.

2. November 17: International Students Day

The day is celebrated every year to focus on providing education to all students. The Day commemorates the deadly attack by Nazis' on the University of Prague (Czech Republic) in 1939 during World War-II, killing 9 students protesting against the German occupation of Czechoslovakia. The day is an opportunity for every student to raise his voice for equal rights and freedom.

Remember! World Students Day is celebrated on October 15 to mark the birthday of former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

3. November 18: Naturopathy Day



The Union Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) celebrated the first Naturopathy Day in 2018 with the aim of promoting the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.

Naturopathy is a system of healthcare developed in harmony with constructive principles of nature on physical, mental, moral, and spiritual aspects of life. It was on this day in 1945, when Mahatma Gandhi became lifetime Chairman of the All-India Nature Cure Foundation Trust (later renamed as the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune).

4. IAEA launches Data Platform

The Vienna based International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA recently launched the IAEA Data Platform, a common centralised online platform to its data pool. The platform aims at making scientific data more accessible to decision makers, experts and the public for stronger transparency and enhanced international knowledge sharing.

All its users such as Member States, researchers and scientists can visualise and download data in a variety of formats from this platform. The platform categorises datasets according to three main topics: Nuclear Safety and Security; Nuclear Technology and Applications; and Safeguards and Verification.

The platform facilitates access to a range of different types of data such as the Incident and Trafficking Database, which serves as the IAEA's information system on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorised activities involving nuclear and other radioactive material outside of regulatory control.

5. India to get Igla-S missiles from Russia



India signed a contract with Russia for supply of advanced Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles. It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) capable of destroying all types of aircraft and helicopters and can be fired by an individual or a crew. It has a range of up to 5-6 kms. It works on the “fire and forget” principle. The Indian Army had already inducted a small number of Igla-S systems last year. The contract allows for manufacturing of these missile systems in India in near future.

6. 'AANA Dashboard for Cities'

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 'AANA Dashboard for Cities' portal on Nov 13 for comparative evaluation of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country. The Dashboard will showcase the data across five broad pillars namely, Political & Administrative Structure; Finance; Planning; Citizen Centric Governance and Delivery of Basic Services.

The primary objectives of the AAINA Dashboard are to help cities to (i) see how they are faring vis-à-vis other cities, (ii) inspire them by pointing to possibilities and areas of improvement and (iii) providing opportunity to learn and engage with frontrunners.

With active cooperation of all ULBs, the 'AAINA' aims to create a robust database of the key performance metrics of ULBs which could be accessed by all stakeholders, and subsequently would open for public view once it gets populated.

7. Ministry of coal amends SHAKTI policy

In a significant move towards coal sector reform, the ministry of coal has announced an amendment to the SHAKTI Policy (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India). Now the power plants, including private ones, without Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), will be granted coal linkage for a minimum of three months and up to a maximum of one year, on the condition that power generated through such linkages must be sold via power exchanges or through transparent bidding processes on the Discovery of Efficient Energy Price (DEEP) portal.

The policy revision is expected to improve the availability and affordability of coal for power generation and enhance the overall efficiency of the energy sector.



8. Pedro Sánchez: Top socialist leader re-elected for the second time as the Prime Minister of the Government of Spain on Nov 16.



9. Dr BN Goswamy: Eminent art historian and art critic, who ruled the hearts of art lovers like few before him, passed away on Nov 17 in Chandigarh. He was 90. He quit the coveted IAS job to devote a lifetime to research and academics. Author of over 26 books, recipient of Padma Bhushan, his eloquence of speech matched the profoundness of his written words. A renowned scholar, he spent his entire life studying, teaching, lecturing and popularising art for the common man.

10. Mitra Shakti-2023: The ninth edition of the joint military exercise between the Indian and Sri Lankan military forces was held from Nov 16 to 29 in Aundh (Pune). Both sides practised tactical actions such as raid, search and destroy missions, and heliborne operations.

11. Millions celebrate Chhath Puja



The four-day celebrations of the immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on the early morning of Nov 20 with devotees offering prayers to the rising Sun on the river/lake banks in the different parts of the country. After paying oblations to the Sun God in the early morning, devotees broke their 36-hour fast and shared 'Prasad' with all the people around. This ritual is called 'Paran'. People in Bihar and adjoining areas of UP and Jharkhand, celebrate this festival with great fervour and devotion.

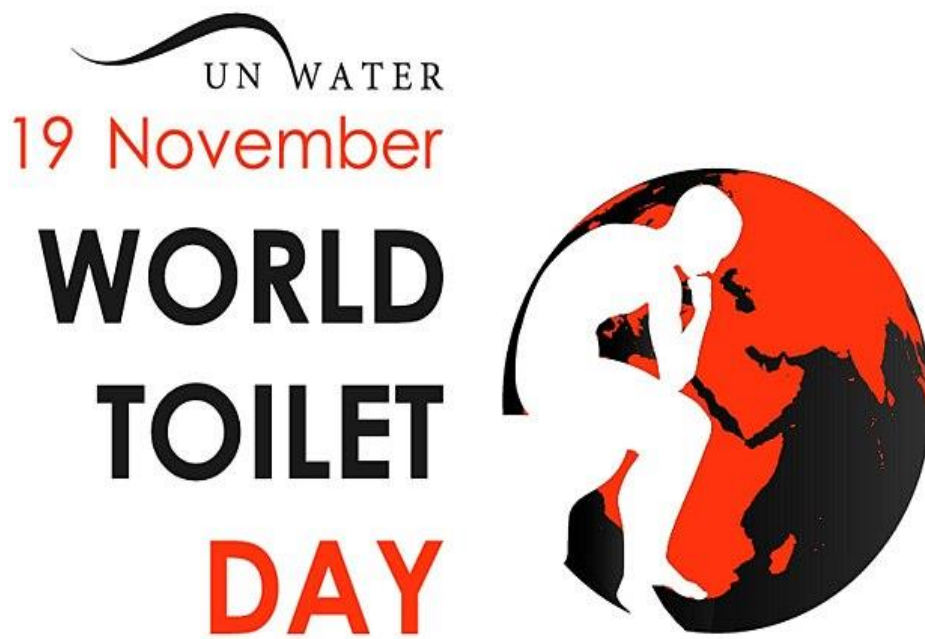
Coming towards the end of the harvest season, the sixth day after Diwali, Chhath (meaning sixth) Puja started as a thanksgiving ritual, to express farmers' gratitude for a bumper crop. Devotees offer their prayers to and seek blessings from Sun God and his sister Chhathi Maiyya.

12. Goa hosts 54th International Film Festival

The 54th International Film Festival of India, IFFI began on Nov 20 at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Bambolim, Goa. The festival opened with the British film *Catching Dust*, directed by Stuart Gatt and the closing film will be *Featherweight*, directed by Robert Kolodny, from the USA.

In the Indian panorama, the opening film in the feature section is a Malayalam film, Aattam, and in the non-feature section, it is Andro Dreams from Manipur. The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to legendary Hollywood actor and producer Michael Douglas. The festival concluded on Nov 28.

13. November 19: World Toilet Day



The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The 6th Sustainable Development Goal of UNO aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030. It aims to raise public awareness of broader sanitation systems such as waste water treatment, stormwater management. According to UN Water, 3.5 billion people are still living with poor quality toilets that ruin their health and pollute their environment. The theme for this year's celebrations is Accelerating Change. It aims at getting the world on track by taking much faster action to achieve the SDG 6 goals.

14. November 19: Women's Entrepreneurship Day



Observed every year to celebrate, recognise and appreciate all women entrepreneurs around the world. The day aims to empower and support women in business and to encourage them in alleviating poverty across the world.

Women are important agents of change and they can be crucial for the sustainable and inclusive recovery of economies and societies from the Covid crisis. The theme selected for this year's campaign "Let's make a better future" - focuses on encouraging young businesswomen to curate solutions that will decide the shape of the future.

15. November 19: International Men's Day

The day is observed to commemorate the achievements and contributions of men and boys to the nation, society, community, family, marriage, and childcare. It is also the day when awareness is created on men's wellbeing and health, and they are celebrated for their works.

In India, the inaugural celebration of the day was organised by the leading Indian Men's rights organisation named Indian Family on 19 November, 2007. This day's theme for 2023 "Zero Male Suicide" highlights the need to take action to stop male suicide.

16. November 20: Awaas Diwas

Celebrated every year to mark the launch of the Rural Housing Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) on this day in 2016 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme targeted to provide "Housing for All" by 2022 by completion of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022. However, till now 2.49 crore houses have been completed.

The scheme provides for a unit size of not less than 25 sq. mt. (269.1 sq ft) and financial grant of Rs. 1.20 lakh in plains and Rs.1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas for construction of a new house. The beneficiary is also entitled to 90.95 person days of unskilled labour from MGNREGS.

17. Nov. 20: World / Universal Children's Day

Supported by UNICEF, this day is observed around the world to improve child welfare and promote children's rights around the world. It also commemorates the anniversary of the date on which the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. This year, the theme for the "Day is For Every Child, Every Right". By prioritising children's rights and participation, we can help to build a better future for all.



18. India Australia hold 2+2 Dialogue



The second India-Australia two plus two Dialogue with Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong was held on Nov 20 in New Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar represented the Indian side. The Ministers discussed a wide range of strategic, defence and security issues covering bilateral, regional and global matters of mutual interest.

19. Javier Milei: Right-wing populist leader was elected as the new President of Argentina on Nov 19.

20. ICC Men's Cricket World Cup: Australia lifted the cup defeating India by six wickets in the final played on Nov 19 at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad. Virat Kohli was declared "Player of the Tournament" for scoring 765 runs in 11 innings, the highest-ever in a single edition of the World Cup. Mohammed Shami became the top wicket taker of the tournament, scalping 24 wickets in just 7 matches.

21. The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022:

Awarded jointly to the Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India as representatives of the Covid warriors in the country for displaying outstanding sense of duty and devotion in serving the covid patients. The prize is given annually in the memory of Indira Gandhi by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, since 1986. It carries a cash award of Rs. 25 lakh along with a citation.



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Some Other Minor News!

1. India hosted the second Voice of Global South Summit on Nov 17 in a virtual format. The summit focused on sharing the key outcomes achieved in various G20 meetings over the course of India's Presidency with the countries of the Global South.



2. Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has been sworn in as the eighth President of the Republic of Maldives.

3. The European Union has approved the use of the controversial herbicide Glyphosate for another 10 years. Glyphosate is one of the most widely used weedkillers in the world, however, critics point to evidence that it may cause cancer and pose a risk to biodiversity.

4. Alok Sharma, senior IPS officer appointed Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG) on Nov 17. SPG is entrusted with the task of providing security to the Prime Minister.

5. Board of the AI giant Open AI, the ChatGPT-maker, pushed out its co-founder and CEO Sam Altman after a review found that he was “not consistently candid in his communications” with the board.



6. ‘Amini,’ the fourth of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Project, was delivered to the Indian Navy on Nov 16 at Kattupalli in Chennai.

7. The Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that it has achieved an unprecedented milestone by granting a record-breaking 41,010 patents in the current fiscal year, up until November 15.

8. Kochi, a popular tourist point on Kerala coast, has earned a prestigious spot on Conde Nast Traveller’s list of the best places to visit in Asia in 2024.

9. According to a research by Journalistic.Org, India ranks third with 72 unicorn companies, with a total valuation of \$195.75 billion. In the top two spots are the USA, 668 unicorns and China with 172 unicorns.

10. Ashok Vaswani appointed as MD & CEO of the Kotak Mahindra Bank for a period of three years with effect from January 1, 2024.

Multiple Choice Questions!

1. International Students Day on Nov 17 commemorates the birthday of which great personality?
 - a. Rabindra Nath Tagore
 - b. Martin Luther King
 - c. George Maxwell
 - d. APJ Abdul Kalam
 - e. None of these

2. India signed a contract with which country for supply of advanced Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles?
 - a. Israel
 - b. Sweden
 - c. France
 - d. Russia
 - e. USA

3. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 'AANA Dashboard for Cities' portal on Nov 13 for comparative evaluation of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country. What does the letter 'I' denote in the acronym AANA?
 - a. Integrated
 - b. Indian
 - c. India
 - d. Infrastructure
 - e. None of these

4. Dr BN Goswamy, eminent art historian and art critic, who ruled the hearts of art lovers like few before him, passed away on Nov 17. He was based in which city?
 - a. Chandigarh
 - b. Meerut
 - c. Lucknow
 - d. Varanasi
 - e. New Delhi

5. With which country India conducted the joint military exercise Mitra Shakti-2023 from Nov 16 to 29 in Aundh (Pune)?
 - a. Nepal
 - b. Sri Lanka
 - c. Bangladesh
 - d. Mongolia
 - e. Britain

6. The four-day celebrations of the immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on the early morning of Nov 20. Which is the main deity associated with Chhath Puja?
 - a. Jal Devta
 - b. Surya Dev
 - c. Annapurna Devi
 - d. Agni Dev
 - e. Shani Dev

7. The 54th International Film Festival of India, IFFI began on Nov 20 at which place in Goa?
 - a. Panjim
 - b. Dabolim
 - c. Bambolim
 - d. Ponda
 - e. Bardez

8. November 19 is observed as the International Men's Day. What is the theme selected for the day this year?
 - a. Let's respect them
 - b. We need men
 - c. Keeping men and boys safe
 - d. Zero male suicide
 - e. Helping men and boys

9. What is the main objective of the Awaas Diwas celebrated every year on November 20?
 - a. To construct houses for the urban poor
 - b. To provide funds to the housing finance companies
 - c. To construct houses for the rural poor
 - d. To promote housing for MGNREGA workers
 - e. None of these

10. The second India-Australia two plus two Dialogue was held on Nov 20 in which city?
 - a. Sydney
 - b. Bengaluru
 - c. New Delhi
 - d. Melbourne
 - e. Jaipur

11. Javier Milei, a right-wing populist leader, has been elected the new President of which South American country?
 - a. Argentina
 - b. Brazil
 - c. Colombia
 - d. Peru
 - e. Chile

12. Who was declared the "Player of the Tournament" in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup that concluded on Nov 19?
 - a. Travis Head
 - b. Virat Kohli
 - c. Mohammed Shami
 - d. Pat Cummins
 - e. Rohit Sharma

13. The Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India were declared the joint winners of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022 for their outstanding achievement in which field?
- a. Fight against drug addiction
 - b. Drive against smoking/chewing tobacco
 - c. Collecting blood for Thalassemia patients
 - d. Fight against COVID 19
 - e. Lowering maternal mortality rate

Answer Key

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

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