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TAAZA

KHABAR

15-16 | December

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. December 15: International Tea Day

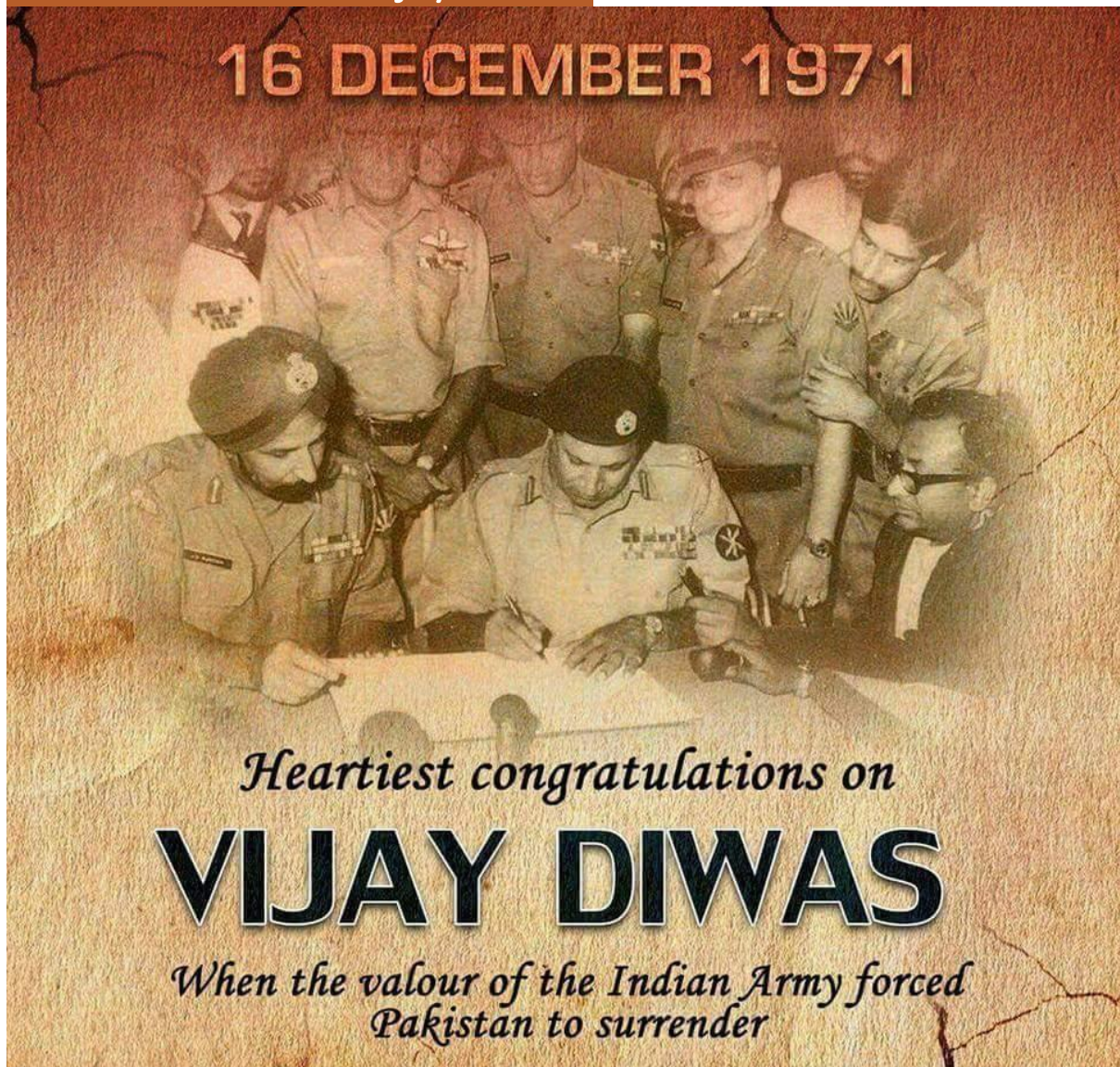


Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate this day to draw the attention of governments towards global tea trade and its impact on workers and growers. World's first tea estate was established in Assam by the Assam Company India Ltd which began the commercial production of tea in 1839.

Today, India is the second largest tea producer (after China) worldwide, with 13,000 tea gardens, employing a workforce of more than 2 million people.

It may be noted that the United Nations General Assembly has designated May 21 as International Tea Day as the season of tea production begins in May in most of the tea producing countries.

2. December 16: Vijay Diwas



Observed every year to mark the Indian armed forces victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that ended on December 16 with the creation of Bangladesh. On this day, Pakistan Army's General A A K Niazi, alongwith 93,000 soldiers, surrendered before the Indian Army led by Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, in Dhaka, leading to creation of a new nation "Bangladesh". On this day, the nation pays tribute to brave soldiers of India and Bangladesh who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

3. Sultan of Oman arrives in India



Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik arrived in India on Dec 15 on his three-day state visit. The Sultan was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including senior Ministers and officials. India and Oman share a long-standing friendship rooted in historical, cultural, and economic ties. The Sultan is regarded as the Monarch of the country.

4. Surat Airport upgraded to International Airport

The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 15 a proposal to declare Surat Airport as an International Airport. This strategic move promises to unlock unprecedented economic potential, making Surat a key player in the international aviation landscape. Surat Airport will not only become a gateway for international travellers but also facilitate seamless export-import operations for the thriving diamond and textile industries in the region.

5. DRDO tests Flying Wing UAV

DRDO successfully carried out a flight trial of high speed 'Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator' on Dec 15 from the Aeronautical Test Range of Chitradurga in Karnataka. It is an indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). With this, India has joined the elite club of countries which have mastered the flying wing technology for UAVs.

6. INS Tarmugli inducted in Indian Navy



INS Tarmugli, a Fast Attack Craft was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Dec 14 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. Equipped with several advanced systems and weapons, the ship will be extensively used for coastal surveillance and protection of our Offshore Development Areas in the Krishna Godavari Basin area and along the East Coast of India.

7. The Indian Navy and the Philippines Navy have carried out a maritime partnership exercise on Dec 13 in the West Philippine Sea area of South China Sea. Flying operations by the Indian Navy helicopter and communication drills were undertaken during the exercise.

8. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize: Formally known as Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, awarded jointly to Daniel Barenboim, Argentina-born distinguished classical pianist and conductor; and Ali Abu Awwad, eminent Palestinian peace activist, for their efforts towards a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The prize given by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, carries a cash award of Rs. 2.5 million and a citation.

9. ADB raises GDP growth rate to 6.7%



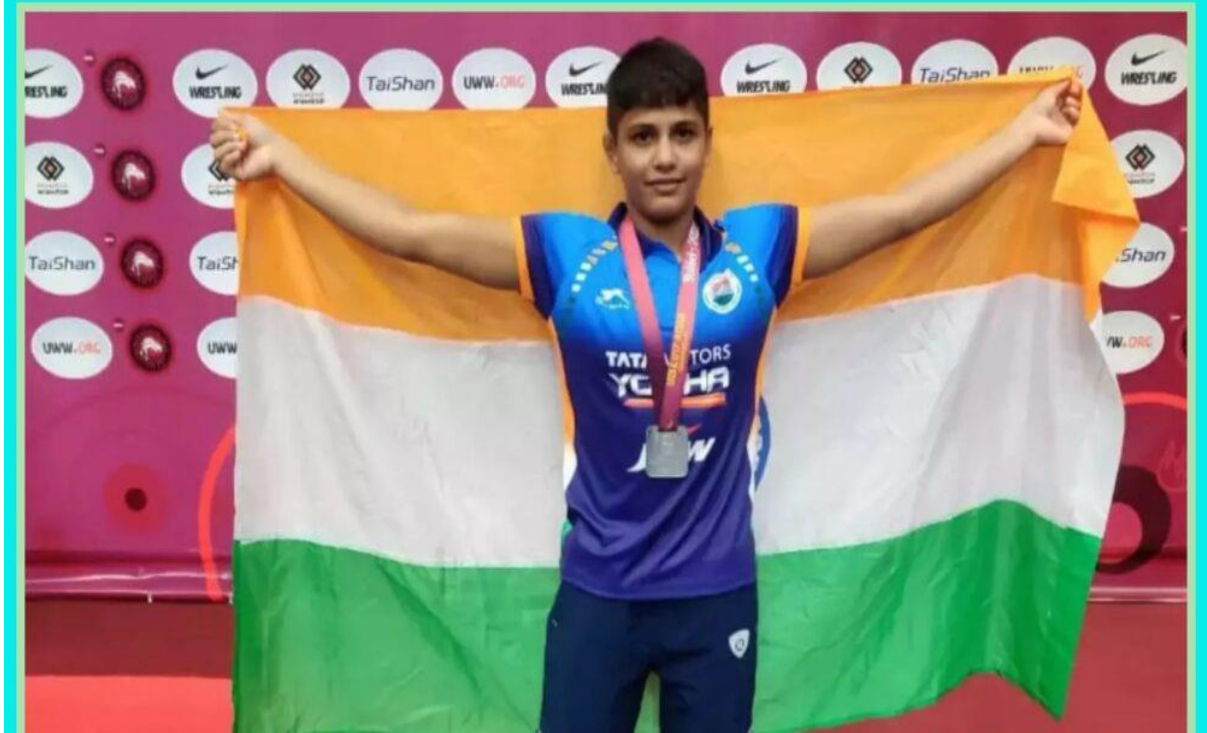
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's growth forecast to 6.7% for the current financial year from its earlier projection of 6.3%, on account of higher-than-expected second quarter results.

According to the Asian Development Outlook December 2023 released on Dec 13, the second quarter saw higher-than-expected GDP growth of 7.6%, causing growth in the first half (April-September) to expand by a strong 7.7%.

10. Pune MC makes world record in reading

A special reading session organised by the Pune Municipal Corporation on Dec 14 entered the Guinness Book of World Records with 3,066 parents simultaneously telling stories to their children for four minutes. The earlier record of 2,479 parents simultaneously telling stories to their children, was held by China. The event was a part of the Pune Book Festival, organised by the National Book Trust from December 16 to 24, aimed to inculcate reading habits in children.

11. Antim Panghal, 19 year old girl wrestler from Haryana has been named the “Rising Star of the Year” among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport’s global governing body.



12. Hyderabad ranked as best city to live in

The Quality of Living Index 2023 released by Mercer, a global consultant for businesses, has placed Hyderabad at 153rd position, highest among Indian cities. It is followed closely by Pune-154 and Bengaluru-156. Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland) and Vancouver (Canada) are the top three cities in that order.

This index evaluates the practicalities of daily life for employees working abroad, especially with families, and relies on data from over 500 cities all over the world. The ranking is based on factors like climate, schools and education, disease and sanitation standards, violence and crime, physical remoteness and ease of communications and socio-political environment.

13. India's first sodium-ion battery



A Pune based firm, KPIT Technologies has unveiled a sodium-ion battery technology that costs up to 30 percent lower than existing lithium-ion batteries. The new battery will prove to be a boon for the electric vehicle segment, reducing their cost by up to 20-30 percent. They are also very useful for UPS, powergrid storage, marine and defence sectors. The KPIT is the first in India and only fourth in the world to offer this advanced technology.

The sodium-ion battery provides a prolonged lifespan with 80% capacity retention over 3000-6000 cycles and quicker charging capabilities in comparison to lithium-ion batteries. Moreover, Sodium is available in abundance as compared to very limited availability of Lithium.

14. ITF World Champions - 2023

Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka were honoured as the International Tennis Federation's World Champions - 2023 after being the only singles players to reach at least the semifinals at all four Grand Slam tournaments this season.



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Some Other Minor News!

1. Iran has decided to cancel visa requirements for visitors from 33 more countries, including India. The decision is aimed at boosting tourist arrivals and attracting more visitors from countries around the world.



2. Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe honoured three Indian officers with the prestigious Golden Owl award at the graduation ceremony held on Dec 14 in Colombo. The officers were undergoing Command and Staff course at Sri Lanka's Defence Services Command and Staff College at Colombo.

3. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan claimed the top position in the UK's List Of World's Top 50 Asian Celebrities. Popular actress Alia Bhatt secured the second spot on the list.

4. Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai has been awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize for Education for her pivotal role in mentoring chemistry educators and popularising education of chemistry in the country.

5. As a tribute to iconic cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the BCCI has decided to retire Dhoni's No 7 jersey. Now the number 7 won't be available to any Indian player. Dhoni, who led India to two World Cup titles -- T20 World Cup in 2007 and ODI World Cup in 2011 -- called it quits from international cricket on August 15, 2020. Sachin's number 10 jersey was 'retired' in 2017.



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