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KHABAR

19-20 | 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??

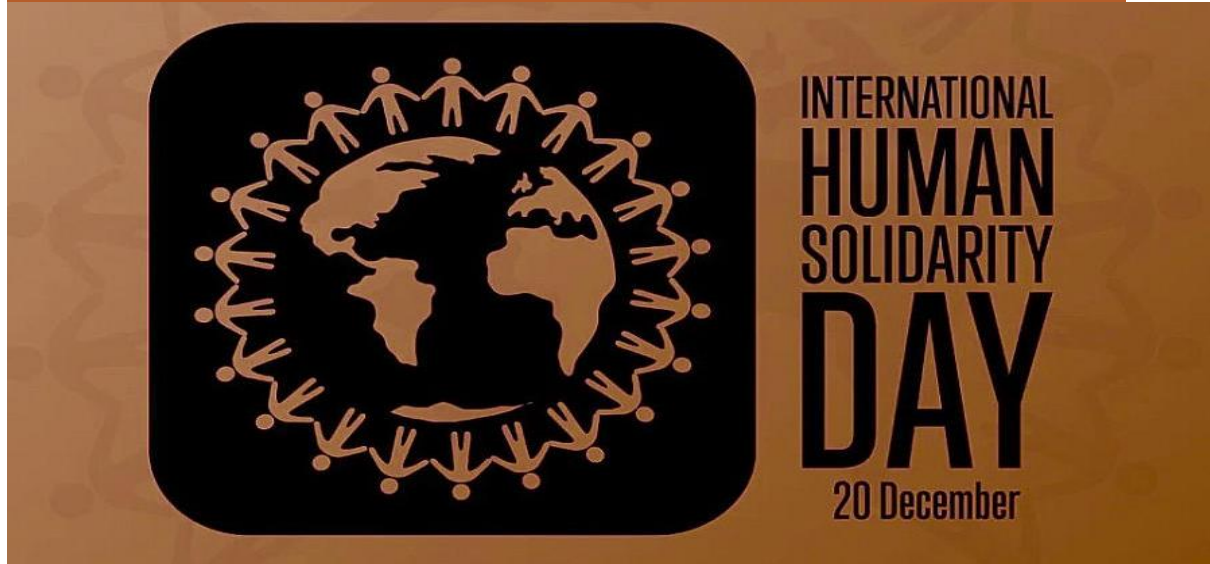
Don't worry!!

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 20: International Human Solidarity Day



The day seeks to celebrate the world's unity in diversity. The day was declared by the U N General Assembly, on December 22, 2005. Its sole objective is to promote cultural equality and social justice to bring social development into developing countries.

Solidarity is defined as an awareness of shared interests and objectives that create a psychological sense of unity. Solidarity also refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one.

2. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi: Re-elected as the President of Egypt for a third six-year term, after winning 89.6 percent of the votes.

3. Gansu province: A 6.2 magnitude earthquake hit mountainous Gansu province of north-west China around midnight on Dec 19, also shaking neighbouring Qinghai province. More than 5,000 buildings in the area collapsed, killing around 150 people in the country's deadliest earthquake in recent years. More than 700 were reported injured in below freezing icy conditions. Disruption of power and water supplies hindered rescue efforts. This remote region is one of China's poorest and most ethnically diverse areas.

4. FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023: Hardik Singh, Indian hockey team midfielder, was named the men's FIH Player of the Year 2023 on Dec 19. Dutch player Xan de Waard, was declared FIH Women's Player of the Year. Indian women's hockey team captain Savita Punia won the best goalkeeper of the year award. **FIH**, International Hockey Federation is the world governing body for Hockey.



5. India's fastest solar electric boat

India's fastest solar electric boat, Barracuda, was launched on Dec 13 in Alappuzha in Kerala. This eco-friendly vessel, aptly named 'Saur Shakthi,' is the result of a collaborative effort between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and Navalt, an eco-marine tech company.

Named after the sea fish Barracuda, it has a range of 7 hours on a single charge and with speed up to 22 kmph. The 14-meter-long and 4.4-meter-wide vessel features twin 50-kW electric motors and 6-kW solar power, symbolising efficient and clean energy usage.

With zero pollution, no noise, and vibrations, the vessel ensures a serene and eco-conscious journey for commuters. It can navigate through waves as high as 4 meters and comfortably accommodates 12 passengers.

6. India tops again in inward remittances



The World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief released on Dec 18 states that India saw the highest amount of remittance inflows in the world in 2023 at \$125 billion. The growth was driven by several factors, including the country's agreement with the UAE, for promoting the use of dirhams and rupees for bilateral trade. India was followed by Mexico (\$67 billion) and China (\$50 billion). The United States continued to be the largest source of remittances.

In the case of India, the main contributing factors were declining inflation and strong labour markets in high-income source countries, which boosted remittances from highly skilled Indians in the US, the UK and Singapore, accounting for 36 per cent of the total remittance inflows.

7. \$250 mn loan for Industrial Corridor

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million policy-based loan on December 15 to the Indian government for supporting the Industrial Corridor Development Programme. The funding will enhance manufacturing competitiveness and fortify the national supply chain.

8. The Government of India signed a loan agreement on Dec 15 with the Asian Development Bank for 37 billion Japanese Yen (\$250 million) for the ongoing construction of the 82-kilometre Delhi Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.



9. IndiGo crosses 100 mn passenger mark

Private airliner IndiGo on December 18 announced that it had made history by 'becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year'. This accomplishment places IndiGo in an elite global club of world's top-10 airlines, operating on such a massive scale.

IndiGo expanded its global presence by incorporating over 20 additional international routes into its network in the past half-year. Earlier in November, IndiGo dominated the domestic market with a 61.8 percent share of passengers carried and that was nearly six times higher than the second-ranking Air India.

10. Exercise Astra Shakti 2023



The Indian Air Force hosted Exercise Astra Shakti 2023 on Dec 12 at Suryalanka Air Force station in district Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh. A single Akash missile system engaged four unmanned aerial targets simultaneously during the exercise.

During the exercise, four targets came from the same direction in a close formation and split to attack defence assets from multiple directions simultaneously. All four targets were successfully engaged at maximum range (around 30 km) and neutralised simultaneously.

India has now become the first country to demonstrate the capability of engaging four targets simultaneously at around 30 km range by command guidance using a single firing unit.

11. Vijay Hazare Trophy: Haryana cricket team secured their first title triumph in Vijay Hazare Trophy on Dec 16 by beating Rajasthan in Rajkot, Gujarat.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called India a 'star performer', growing at a robust rate due to prudent macroeconomic policies and economic reforms in key sectors like digitisation and infrastructure. It added that India is projected to contribute more than 16 percent of the global growth.



2. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, has been awarded Bhutan's prestigious "National Order of Merit Gold Medal" for her distinguished services for improving various health services in Bhutan in the last ten years.

3. The unclaimed deposits in the Indian banks witnessed a substantial 28% annual rise, reaching a staggering ₹42,270 crore in the year ending 31 March, 2023. It marked a significant jump from the previous year's figure of ₹32,934 crore.

4. The Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' secured the prestigious Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival .



Multiple Choice Questions!

1. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been re-elected as the President of which country for a third six-year term?
 - a. Yemen
 - b. Libya
 - c. Jordan
 - d. Egypt
 - e. Syria

2. In which country the Gansu province was devastated by a 6.2 magnitude earthquake on Dec 19, killing around 150 persons?
 - a. Afghanistan
 - b. China
 - c. Iran
 - d. Iraq
 - e. Egypt

3. FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023 on Dec 19 declared which Indian Hockey player as the Men's FIH Player of the Year 2023?
 - a. Hardik Singh
 - b. Jugraj Singh
 - c. Harmanpreet Singh
 - d. P R Sreejesh
 - e. Mandeep Singh

4. India's fastest solar electric boat, Barracuda, was launched on Dec 13 in which state?
 - a. Goa
 - b. Gujarat
 - c. Kerala
 - d. Odisha
 - e. Maharashtra

5. Which private airliner announced on December 18 that it had made history by 'becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year'?
 - a. IndiGo
 - b. Spice Jet
 - c. Air Asia
 - d. Air India
 - e. No such claim

6. Which armed force of India conducted Exercise Astra Shakti 2023 on Dec 12?
 - a. Indian Army
 - b. Indian Coast Guard
 - c. CRPF
 - d. BSF
 - e. Indian Air Force

7. Haryana cricket team secured their first title triumph in Vijay Hazare Trophy on Dec 16 by beating which team in Rajkot, Gujarat?
- a. Vidarbha
 - b. Rajasthan
 - c. Gujarat
 - d. Maharashtra
 - e. Uttar Pradesh

Answer Key

Q	ANSWER
1	D
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	E
7	B

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