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KHABAR

21-23 | 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. National Sports Awards 2023 announced



The Government announced the National Sports Awards 2023 on Dec 20 in New Delhi. The top sports honour, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, was given to Badminton players Chirag C Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy for their outstanding achievements in the last four years. The award named after the legendary wizard of Hockey, comprises "a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹25 lakh.

2. Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance: The award comprises a bronze statuette of Arjuna, certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. Winners for 2023 are:

Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreeshankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohameed Hussamuddin (boxing), R Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim (wrestling), Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).

Dronacharya Award (regular) for coaches:

The award comprises a bronze statuette of Dronacharya (legendary Guru of Mahabharata times), a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

Lalit Kumar (wrestling), RB Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb).

Dronacharya Award (life-time): Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), Bhaskaran E (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis).

Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement: Given for the lifetime contribution to sports development, the award comprises a Dhyan Chand statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.

Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023 for top performance in the inter-university tournaments, was secured by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

The awardees will receive their awards from President Droupadi Murmu in a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 9th of next month.

3. RBI allows tokenisation at the bank level

The RBI introduced a Card-on-File (CoF) token facility at the level of banks and other institutions. Now the cardholders will get tokens created at the bank level and get it linked to their existing accounts with various e-commerce applications. At present, a CoF token can only be created through the merchant's application or webpage.

For a CoF, a token is a 16-digit number unique for a combination of card, token requestor and merchant. Through tokenisation, the actual card details are replaced with token credentials that can be used only with the intended merchant.

4. UNESCO honours 6 Indian heritage sites



Six heritage projects from India secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced on Dec 21 in Bangkok.

The Rambagh Gate and Rampart in Amritsar received the highest honour, 'Award of Excellence' for maintaining the site's existing uses while promoting inclusivity and broader community access.

The Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple in Kerala was honoured with 'Award of Distinction' for outstanding restoration efforts maintaining its original traditional wooden architecture.

The Church of Epiphany in Haryana, India; David Sassoon Library and Reading Room in Mumbai and Bikaner House in New Delhi were honoured with the 'Award of Merit' for excellent upkeep and maintenance of heritage status of the old structures.

Pipal Haveli, a heritage rural homestay in Nawan Pind Sardaran village of Gurdaspur district in Punjab, was awarded 'Special Recognition for Sustainable Development' for maintaining the traditional heritage status of the old residential premises.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognize the efforts of individuals and organisations in restoring and conserving structures of heritage value.

5. 3 new criminal laws introduced



The Parliament passed three key Bills on Dec 21 that seek to overhaul the criminal justice system, with focus on delivering speedy justice rather than handing down punishment. The new bills have deleted several outdated provisions and have included a number of new procedures that were the demand of changed times.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita which will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), is the principal criminal law that defines various offences and lists the punishments for the same.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita which will replace the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), provides for the procedures for implementation of IPC, covering arrest, trial and prosecution, bail and maintenance of law and order.

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam which will replace the Indian Evidence Act, deals with the treatment and admissibility of evidences.

Here are the key points of the three new bills:

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Formerly Indian Penal Code-IPC)

- Definition of child introduced
- Transgender included in definition of 'gender'
- Electronic, digital records included in definition of document
- New chapter on offence against woman and child introduced
- New chapter on 'inchoate offences' (attempt, abetment and conspiracy) introduced
- New offences like organised crime, terrorist act, petty organised crime, hit and run, mob lynching, hiring child to commit offence, sexual exploitation of woman by deceitful means, snatching, abetment outside India, acts endangering the sovereignty, integrity and unity of India, publication of false or fake news etc. introduced
- Attempt to commit suicide is deleted
- Community service is provided as a punishment for theft of less than Rs 5,000

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Formerly Code of Criminal Procedure-CrPC)

- Scope of declaring proclaimed offenders increased. Earlier only 19 offences were included which did not include rape cases. Now all offences with punishment for 10 years or more included
- Arrest of offences with punishment of less than 3 years offence with prior nod of senior police officers
- 15 days police custody is allowed for the first 40/60 days of the detention period and this will not be a ground for refusal of bail
- In-absentia trial introduced
- Electronic FIR introduced
- Preliminary Inquiry introduced in offences punishable from 3 years to less than 7 years
- Meaning of bail has been simplified throughout the BNSS
- First time undertrial is provided early release on bail
- Bail in acquittal cases simplified
- First time offender to be given relaxed punishment (one-fourth and one-sixth of such punishment) in plea bargaining

- Timeline prescribed in many procedures and processes
- Audio video electronic means used for many processes and procedures to enhance transparency, accountability and speedy justice – like recording of evidence of witness, deposition by police officer, evidence of accused, evidence of public servant, scientific expert or medical officer, pronouncement of judgement
- Witness protection scheme introduced
- Definition of 'victim' expanded, police officer to inform victim/informant about progress in probe
- Provision for not more than 2 adjournments introduced

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (Formerly Indian Evidence Act)

- Electronic record included in definition of 'document'
- Statements received electronically included in definition of 'evidence'
- Added more standards for considering electronic, digital records as primary evidence laying emphasis on its proper custody, storage, transmission, and broadcast
- Added more kinds of secondary evidence to include oral, written admissions & evidence of a skilled person to examine documents which cannot be conveniently examined by court
- Established the legal admissibility, validity, and enforceability of electronic or digital record as evidence
- Inclusion of husband/wife as competent witness in criminal proceedings against spouse
- Conviction based on corroborated testimony of accomplice made legal
- Comprehensive certificate for submitting electronic evidence added in schedule



6. National Geoscience Data Repository



The Ministry for Mines launched India's National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal on Dec 19 as a comprehensive online platform that will host the geospatial data for the entire country. Out of the total 32 lakh sq km area of the country, the NGDR portal makes available detailed geospatial data of each square kilometre of 20 lakh sq km area. Further, offshore exploration data of close to 20 lakh sq km is also available on the portal.

Spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, the NGDR portal will democratise critical geoscience data by placing it in the public domain for allowing free open access. The portal will facilitate data based research on the mineral exploration projects to become self-reliant in those minerals which are present within the country.

7. Angola decides to quit OPEC

Africa's second biggest oil producer, Angola announced its decision to leave the oil cartel OPEC - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The decision comes after the OPEC lowered Angola's oil output target last month as part of a series of cuts led by Saudi Arabia to help prop up oil prices. Angola joined OPEC in 2007 and has been battling to turn around declining production for nearly a decade.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Currently, the Organization has a total of 13 Members. It is based in Vienna, Austria. It is headed by a Secretary General, currently Haitham Al Ghais of Kuwait.

8. WHO classifies JN.1 strain as VOI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified a sub-variant of the Omicron strain of coronavirus, JN.1 as a "variant of interest" (VOI) because of its rapidly increasing spread. The WHO said that the risk to public health posed by JN.1 is currently low and current vaccines continue to offer protection. JN.1 has been found in many countries around the world, including China, UK, India and the United States. A variant is designated as VOI by WHO if it shows a growth advantage over other circulating variants — meaning its proportion increases along with any increase in the total number of cases.



9. Grandmaster D Gukesh clinched the title In Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament on Dec 21 by holding compatriot P Harikrishna for a draw.

10. CISF to takeover the security of the Parliament

The Union home ministry has asked the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to conduct a survey of the parliament to establish “regular deployment on a comprehensive pattern”, after a security breach occurred on the premises on Dec 13. The CISF will collaborate with Parliament Security Services to regulate access to both the old and new parliament complex.

Both the security wing and fire wing of CISF will be deployed to ensure foolproof security of the Parliament. Currently, visitor frisking is managed by Delhi Police personnel. CISF has expertise in managing security at the airports in the country.



11. 740 new Eklavya schools to be opened



Government has decided to establish 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) throughout the country for the development of tribal students. These schools will provide free education and hostel facilities to tribal students from class 6 to 12. At present, 401 EMRS are functional in the country.

EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors. These are opened in the blocks which have more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students. Each school has a capacity of 480 students.

12. Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day

The External Affairs Ministry has advised that the President of France, Emmanuel Macron will be the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2024. India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. This year, both countries are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership.

13. The Asian Development Bank approved a \$100 million loan to improve urban services and tourism facilities in the northeastern state of Tripura. The funds will be used to upgrade the water supply infrastructure and improve urban roads.



14. Tamil Nadu to host Khelo India Youth Games

The 6th Khelo India Youth Games will be held from January 19 to 31 in 2024. The upcoming edition will take place in Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore. More than 5,500 sports persons and more than 1600 coaches are expected to participate in 27 sports.

The mascot for the Games is 'VeeraMangai'. The mascot represents legendary freedom fighter Rani Velu Nachiyar, who is commonly referred to as 'VeeraMangai' in the state, which stands for 'brave woman', as she was the first Indian queen to go to war against the British-run East India Company.

KIYG are the annual national level multidisciplinary grassroot games held in January or February for two categories, namely under-17 school students and under-21 college students. 5th KIYG were hosted in Feb, 2023 by Bhopal.

15. Three new schemes for the MSME sector



The Ministry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched three sub-schemes on Dec 20 under its existing RAMP ((Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology in business, boost the circular economy and address delayed payments issues.

The MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme) will help enterprises adopt green technology with interest subvention and credit guarantee support

MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme) is the first-ever scheme in the government to support circular economy projects which will be done through credit subsidy and support MSME sector towards zero emissions by 2070.

MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments is a first-of-its-kind scheme to synergise legal support with modern IT tools and artificial intelligence in order to address the issue of delayed payments for micro and small enterprises.

Further, the ZED scheme of the ministry, which aims to promote manufacturing without any negative impact on the environment, has now been made completely free for women-led MSMEs.

16. 2024 is International Year Of Camelids



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
CAMELIDS
2024

The United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year Of Camelids (IYC 2024). Supported by the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation, the year will focus on highlighting camelids' crucial role towards different communities. Whether transporting products and people or simply providing communities with necessities like milk, meat, hides and fibre, camelids thrive where other livestock species cannot survive.

The decision aims to build awareness about the untapped potential of camelids and calls for increased investment in the camelid sector for more research, and the use of innovative practices and technologies. It will also make people aware of how camelids are key to the livelihoods of many households in hostile environments across more than 90 nations.

Camelids, including camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries and guanacos, are crucial, particularly for indigenous people and local communities.

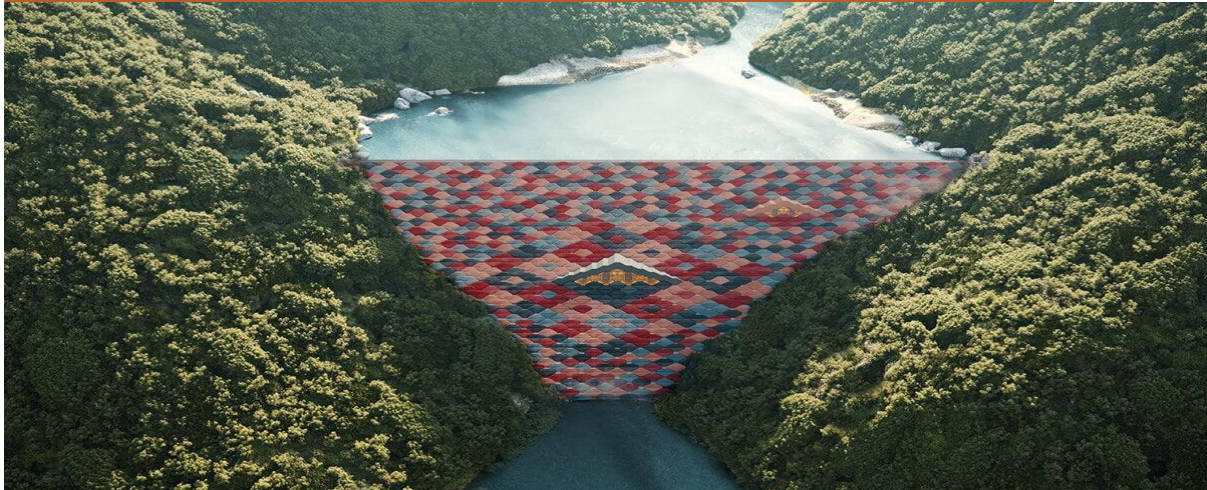
17. PRAYAS launched for safe migration

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched Project PRAYAS on Dec 21 to help Indian workers and students migrate in a secure, orderly, and regular manner.

The project PRAYAS, or Promoting Regular Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals, was launched in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

PRAYAS is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration. Established in 1951, IOM is a United Nations agency based in Geneva, dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration.

18. Bhutan to develop Gelephu Mindfulness City



Bhutan plans to build a massive “international city” in an area spanning over 1,000 sq km on its border with Assam. Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck announced on Dec 17 the Gelephu Mindfulness City Special Administrative Region (SAR) Project as an economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India’s northeastern States.

The Gelephu SAR is set to become an autonomous economic hub, allowing it to shape essential laws and policies. The SAR aims to attract foreign investment through a favourable business environment and incentives.

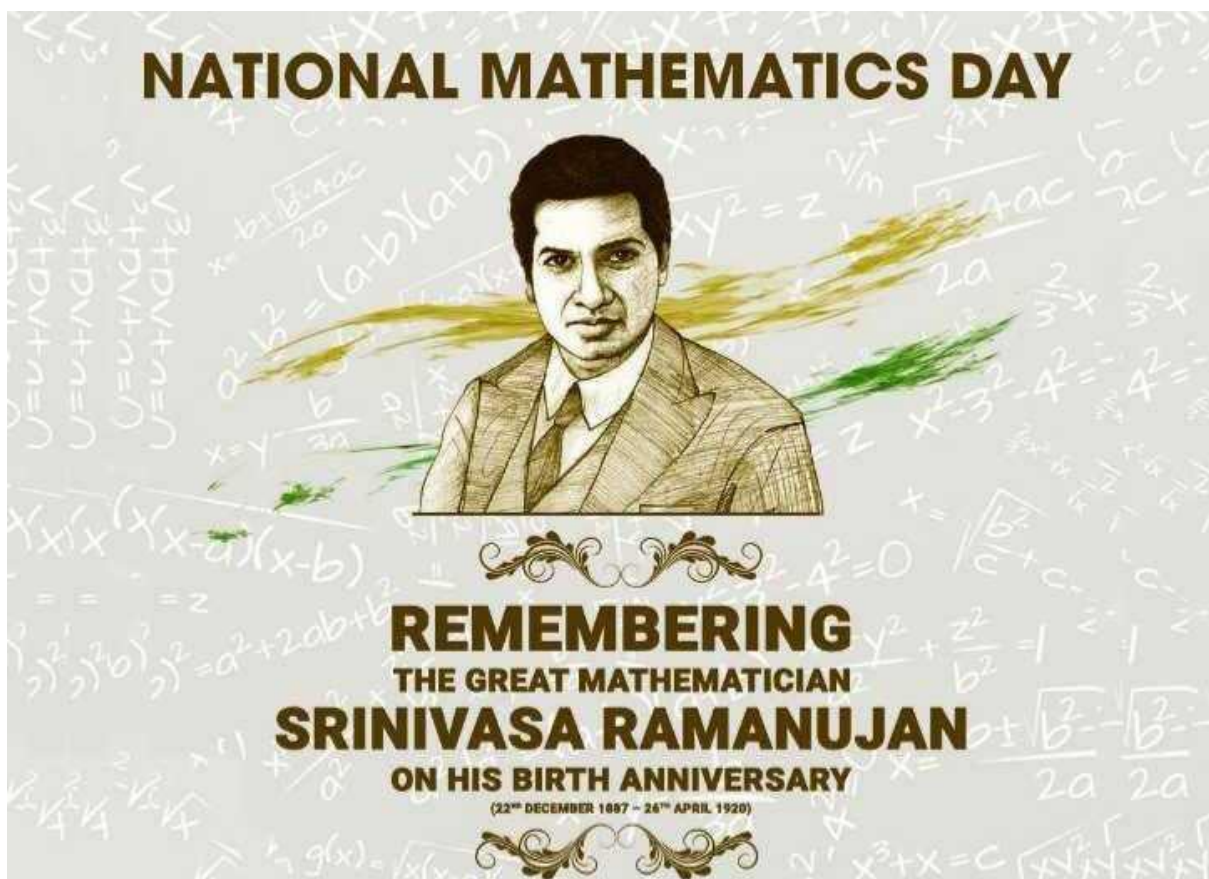
19. Bengaluru International Airport

The Terminal-2 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has been named one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles. The Prix Versailles awards celebrate outstanding achievements in architecture and design on a global scale.

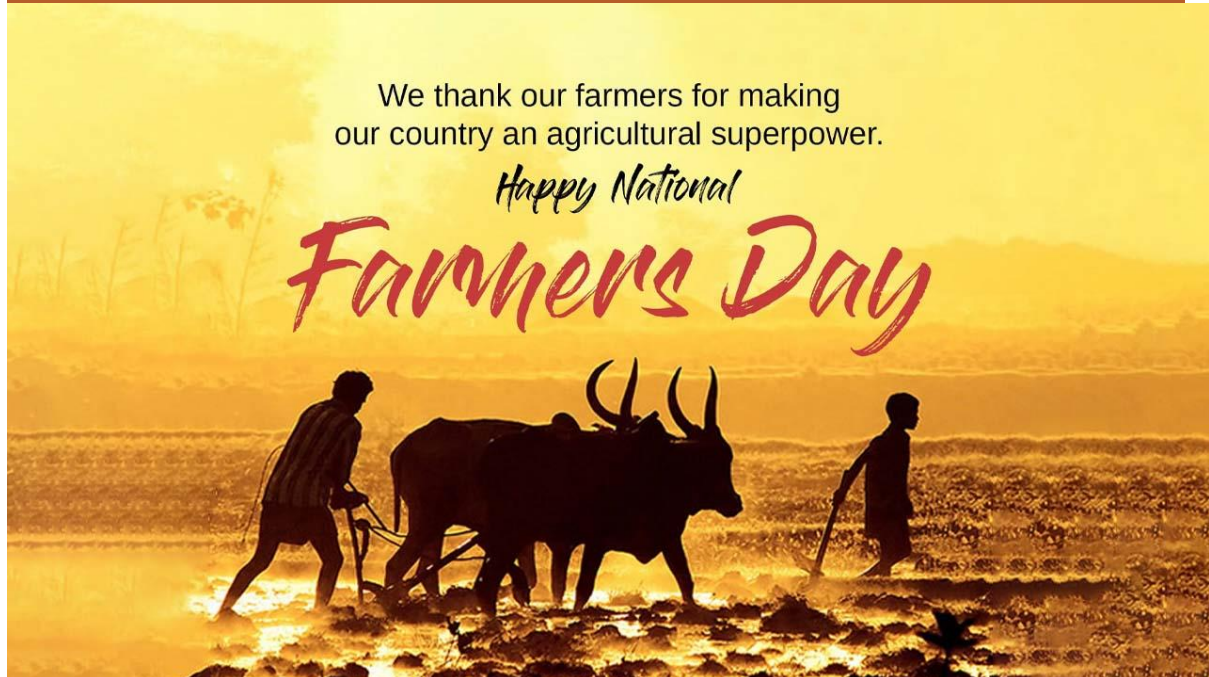
Designed to accommodate 25 million passengers annually, the airport seamlessly blends functionality with aesthetic appeal, captivating passengers through meticulously curated art and décor elements as part of a recently launched art program.

20. December 22: National Mathematics Day

Celebrated to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu, his theory of numbers contains revolutionary findings of the properties of the functions of partition. Unfortunately, he passed away at an early age of 32 years due to Tuberculosis in 1920.



21. December 23: National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)



It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of veteran farmer leader and former Prime Minister of India (28 July, 79 to 14 January, 80), Chaudhary Charan Singh, with the focus on the upliftment of the status of farmers. He introduced many farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers. Fondly popular as Chaudhary Saheb, he breathed his last on January 14, 1980. A memorial dedicated to him was built at Raj Ghat and is called 'Kisan Ghat'.

22. December 24: The National Consumer Day

On this day, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President. This act was replaced by a new act with the same name in August, 2019. The Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices, etc. The day provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Remember! World Consumer Day is celebrated on 15th March.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. Sanjay Singh has been elected the new president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). He is the vice president of the Uttar Pradesh Wrestling Association.



2. The 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs was held from Dec 19 to 22 in Bangkok, Thailand. Chiefs of Navies or Senior Delegates from 27 Members or Observer countries participated in the event.

3. Pradip Kumar Das, CMD of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), won the “CMD of the Year” award under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards.

Multiple Choice Questions!

1. The top sports honour, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, comprises a statuette of _____, and a cash prize of ₹25 lakh:
 - a. Dhyan Chand
 - b. Bhim
 - c. Arjun
 - d. Yogi
 - e. None of these

2. How many heritage projects from India secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced on Dec 21 in Bangkok?
 - a. Three
 - b. Five
 - c. Six
 - d. Two
 - e. Seven

3. The Rambagh Gate and Rampart received the highest UNESCO heritage honour, 'Award of Excellence' for maintaining the site's existing uses while promoting inclusivity and broader community access. It is situated in which city?
 - a. Lucknow
 - b. Bhopal
 - c. Gwalior
 - d. Amritsar
 - e. Jaipur

4. Which member country recently announced its decision to leave the oil cartel OPEC - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries?
 - a. Angola
 - b. Libya
 - c. Congo
 - d. Algeria
 - e. Nigeria

5. Which GrandMaster clinched the title In Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament on Dec 21?
 - a. R Praggnanandhaa
 - b. Vidit Gujrathi
 - c. Erigaisi Arjun
 - d. D Gukesh
 - e. P Harikrishna

6. After a security breach occurred on the premises of Parliament on Dec 13, the union home ministry has asked which Central Armed Police Force to take charge of the security of the Parliament?
 - a. ITBP
 - b. CISF
 - c. NSG
 - d. CRPF
 - e. SSB

7. Government has decided to establish 740 _____ Model Residential Schools (EMRS) throughout the country for the development of tribal students:
 - a. Bheel
 - b. Munda
 - c. Santhal
 - d. Eklavya
 - e. Birsa

8. Which foreign dignitary has been invited as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2024?
 - a. Prime Minister of UK
 - b. Sultan of Oman
 - c. President of France
 - d. Prime Minister of Japan
 - e. Prime Minister of Italy

9. State of Tamil Nadu will host the 6th Khelo India Youth Games from January 19 to 31 in 2024. These games are which number in series?
 - a. Third
 - b. Fourth
 - c. Fifth
 - d. Sixth
 - e. Seventh

10. The United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year Of _____:
- a. Camelids
 - b. Equines
 - c. Penguins
 - d. Dolphins
 - e. Birds
11. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched Project PRAYAS on Dec 21 to help Indian workers and students migrate in a secure, orderly, and regular manner. IOM is based in which city?
- a. Paris
 - b. Rome
 - c. Ottawa
 - d. Geneva
 - e. Brussels
12. Which neighbouring country of India plans to build a massive “international city” in an area spanning over 1,000 sq km on its border with India?
- a. Nepal
 - b. Bhutan
 - c. Myanmar
 - d. China
 - e. None of these

13. Terminal 2 of International Airport in _____, India has been named as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles:
- a. Delhi
 - b. Mumbai
 - c. Hyderabad
 - d. Bengaluru
 - e. Chennai
14. National Mathematics Day on Dec 22 marks the birth anniversary of which?
- a. P.C. Mahalanobis
 - b. Srinivasa Ramanujan
 - c. C R RAO
 - d. S N Bose
 - e. None of these
15. December 23 is observed as the National Farmers' Day to commemorate the birthday of veteran farmer leader and former Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh. He held the office of the prime minister in which period?
- a. 1976-77
 - b. 1977-78
 - c. 1978-79
 - d. 1979-80
 - e. 1980-81

16. December 24 is celebrated as the National Consumer Day. On this day, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 received the assent of the President. This act was replaced by a new act with the same name in which year?
- a. 2016
 - b. 2017
 - c. 2018
 - d. 2019
 - e. 2020

Answer Key

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

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